





# Ramallah waits in wings as Palestinian business capital

RAMALLAH (AFP) — As the intifada graffiti fades off the walls and its 40,000 residents look to self-rule, the bustling town of Ramallah on Jerusalem's doorstep is turning into the Palestinian business capital.

Ramallah is a mere 10-minute drive from Jerusalem, set amid rocky, alive-tree dotted hills at the centre of a future Palestinian entity which the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) insists will one day become a state.

The town is bracing itself for an economic boom and seeks to lure investors with stability. Unlike the flash-point town of Hebron, it is free of holy sites that can attract tourists but can also become the focus of religious conflict.

"We want to restore our city as the pride of Palestine," said Khalil Musa Khalil, the town's mayor.

While encouraging the trend to turn Ramallah into a business capital, he cautions against forecasts that the town could take the place of Jerusalem, although several self-rule ministries are already in place.

"We don't approve of talk of Ramallah as the next capital, our only capital is Jerusalem," he insisted.

On the eve of self-rule,

mobile phones, satellite dishes, BMW cars and mountain bikes are already common sights in Ramallah, a town long noted as a haven for the political elite and intellectuals.

With Bir Zeit University nearby, the town has Muslim and Christian communities, while Jewish settlements stand on neighbouring hillsides. Al Bireh is its twin town.

Under the West Bank self-rule accord, which the Israeli parliament endorsed on Friday, the army is to withdraw from all Palestinian towns barring Hebron by the end of the year. Patrols in Ramallah have already been eased.

Hundreds of new firms are planning to set up here, while small to medium-sized businesses, such as pharmaceutical companies, are already flourishing.

Major investors, however, are waiting to see what self-rule brings, although a construction boom is already underway, along with work on new roads and a sewage system.

New building this year covered 112,000 square metres up until June, compared to 78,000 square metres for the whole of 1993, the year before self-rule was launched in Gaza and Jericho, the

mayor's office said. Abdullah Belouni, manager of the Arab Bank branch in Manara Square that reopened in December for the first time since 1967, said almost all loans were going out to construction.

Land prices have rocketed. In the centre of town, a donum of prime real estate can now sell for as much as a million dollars.

Abu Afif, a 57-year-old developed, returned from Brazil in 1994 and has demolished an old building off the square to build a 10-storey block, including a billiards hall and a branch of the U.S. children restaurant chain KFC.

The town has close links with the United States, where hundreds of families have emigrated since the end of the last century.

Red-tiled villas have sprouted up on the outskirts of Ramallah, a district of 300,000 inhabitants, although prices have tripled, according to Salahadin Jabr Alodeh of the newly-rehoused chamber of commerce.

Mr. Alodeh said the town is already the centre of Palestinian banking, with 12 new branches opening soon. But the gold rush since the end of the intifada, or Palestinian uprising, also has its down side.



TOURING THE STREETS: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Sunday chats with citizens during a tour of Amman (see page 3) (photo by Boghos)

## UAE steps up its campaign against drugs and alcohol

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has stepped up a campaign to combat drugs and alcohol amid growing abuse in the country and a surge in narcotics-trafficking from Pakistan and other Asian countries.

A few months after it decided to enforce the death penalty against drug smugglers, the government last week created a Higher Committee for Combating Drugs and Intoxicants to spearhead the drive.

Officials said around five million dirhams (\$1.36 million) had already been earmarked for the committee as an initial budget.

"The committee will map out strategies, policies and programmes to fight narcotics and intoxicants throughout the country," Interior Minister Mohammed Said Al Badi told the official news agency WAM.

"The creation of the committee illustrated our leadership to take more effective measures to tackle this problem and protect our youth. It also underscores the need for a comprehensive and radical action," he said.

The committee is headed by Sheikh Sultan Ben Zayed Al Nahayan, the deputy prime minister, and composed of senior representatives from the Interior Ministry, intelligence, the central bank, and the ministries of foreign affairs, education,

health, information, Islamic affairs and other departments.

Officials said the campaign would include television programmes, seminars, leaflets and sermons against drug abuse during open-air Friday prayers.

The Health Ministry will also expand existing programmes to treat drug addicts, who are pardoned if they turn themselves in.

Mr. Badi, a former army chief, said the committee would boost cooperation with other Gulf states and countries outside the region to fight drugs.

"We will dedicate Friday sermons to highlight the hazards of narcotics and intoxicants and urge our youth to stay away from such harmful things," Sheikh Mohammed Al Khazraji, minister of Islamic affairs and endowments, said.

Dubai police commander Dahi Khalaf said there was a need to bolster the country's coast and border guard and tighten control of small harbours.

Police records showed most of the smuggled drugs over the past decade came by sea from neighbouring Iran, Pakistan and other Asian countries.

More than eight tonnes seized in the past three years, involving hashish, heroin, cocaine, opium and other drugs. The bulk of those arrested in this connection

were Pakistanis, Iranians and Africans.

Apart from the surge in trafficking operations, officials have been alarmed by what they call the spread of drug addiction among their own people. Several UAE men were reported to have died from overdoses in the past few years.

"This problem has become very serious. We felt it time to act before it gets out of control," a senior police officer told AFP.

"Enforcement of the death penalty could deter international gangs. We have to take action at the same time to safeguard our youth from indulging in such crimes," he said.

Despite the introduction of capital punishment early this year, police have reported several narcotic smuggling attempts, although they involved relatively small quantities seized mostly at sea.

Experts believe the UAE, a major oil producer, remains one of the most vulnerable to narcotic-trafficking in the region because of its proximity to drug-producing states in Asia, the presence of large foreign communities and its long coastline.

An Iranian crackdown on drug trafficking is also to blame, they said, as smugglers were forced to switch routes through the emirates and other countries to reach their destinations in Europe.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Egypt and U.S. to hold war games

CAIRO (R) — The annual joint exercises between the Egyptian and U.S. armed forces, known as Bright Star, will take place in November. Egyptian Chief of Staff Salah Halabi said in an interview published on Sunday. This year France, Britain and the United Arab Emirates will also take part, he told the government newspaper Al-Ahram in an interview marking the Arab-Israeli war of 1973. The exercises were first held after Egypt and Israel signed a peace treaty in 1979 as a sign of better relations and Egypt's shift away from dependence on the Soviet Union for weapons and training. They have taken place almost every year since. Lieutenant-General Halabi did not say how many troops would take part in the exercises or how long they would last.

### Rock of emerald to be sold at auction

DUBAI (AFP) — An 80-kilogramme rock glittering with raw emerald is to be sold at auction in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), officials said Sunday. The auction at the Sharjah Expo Centre has been delayed until a later date to allow buyers from abroad to attend after not enough people turned up for Saturday's event. An official for the centre, Adnan Abu Hijab, said. The auction started at \$50 million but was cancelled after only 12 of the 30 people who had registered turned up, he said. "Many people called from abroad showing interest, but did not have the time to come to the United Arab Emirates," he said. "So the auction was delayed to a date that will be announced later." The rock belongs to a Mauritanian, Mr. Abu Hijab said.

### Women-chasers face one year in jail

DUBAI (AFP) — Cruising in cars for women, with the usual cat-calls and whistles, has become a crime in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). "The harassment of girls in public places has become a serious problem in some parts of the country," the Khaleej Times newspaper said, quoting officials. "The government has ordered vice squads to apply severe penalties on the stalkers." First-time offenders will get a one-month prison term, and if the violation is repeated, penalties include one year in jail and a fine of 60,000 dirhams (\$16,000), the officials said. The instrument of the crime — the car — will be impounded and expatriate women-chasers will be deported after serving their jail sentence. Many women have complained about being chased by young men in fast cars, the officials said, adding that another teasing technique was to drive slowly near the sidewalk and follow the women as they walk. And beware of acts performed inside the vehicle, officials said, warning that "those who use their cars for immoral purposes will be jailed for six months."

### Kuwait jails man for killing 'witch'

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwait court upheld a 10-year jail term against a man who killed a sister-in-law he suspected had made his wife ill by witchcraft, a newspaper said on Sunday. The man fired six bullets into the woman's head and then "rushed back to the hospital to see if the spell had left his wife, only to find that she had died," Al Qabas daily reported. The appeal court rejected defence arguments the defendant acted in line with an Islamic rule allowing killing of witches. Islam, which bans witchcraft, says a judge can order the execution of witches after a trial. Al Qabas said the man found items used by witches in the victim's house.

### Oman buys Swiss anti-aircraft guns

DUBAI (R) — Oman has bought Swiss 35-millimetre anti-aircraft guns made by a unit of Oerlikon, diplomatic sources said on Sunday. The sources said the contract, which was also sought by Britain's GEC-Marconi, was signed on Oct. 3. No details of the size or value of the deal were immediately available. The official Omani News Agency on Sunday quoted Jund (soldier) Oman magazine as saying the weapons would be deployed in November when the country celebrates its 25th national day. Oman's military modernisation programme is not as extensive as those in neighbouring Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait and Iran across the Gulf waterway. Two French fast patrol warships last month joined the Oman navy, while delivery of 18 British Challenger Two tanks began this year.

### Talibans say they will allow women education

ISLAMABAD (R) — A senior U.N. official said on Saturday that Afghanistan's Taliban Islamic movement had assured him it would allow women to be educated in areas it controls. Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs Peter Hansen told reporters in Islamabad that the assurance was given to him on Friday when he visited the southern Afghan town of Kandahar, the headquarters of the Taliban. Earlier press reports from the area said the Taliban had banned girls from schools in the western town of Herat after it captured the area from pro-government forces last month. Mr. Hansen said his talks with the Taliban's Shura (council) included the question of ensuring that girls would be given an opportunity of education.

## UAE nationals insist on execution for Filipina maid

ABU DHABI (R) — Young Filipina maid Sarah Balabagan begins an appeal trial on Monday hoping for freedom but many United Arab Emirates (UAE) nationals insist her death sentence for murder must stand.

"She should be executed in public as a warning to others. If you come here to work you have to respect our laws. This is the United Arab Emirates, not the Philippines or the West," said government employee Khalid Al Raisi.

The uproar that erupted after an Islamic court in Al Ain condemned Ms. Balabagan to death on Sept. 16 for the premeditated murder of her UAE employer has fuelled resentment among nationals of this Gulf Arab federation.

Reflecting the view of many in this oil-rich emirate, the court rejected Ms. Balabagan's claim that she stabbed Almas Mohammad Al Baloushi 34 times in self-defence after wrestling his knife away during a rape.

The verdict has infuriated the Philippines, reigniting passions that swept the country after another Filipina maid, Flor Contemplacion, was hanged in Singapore in March for double murder.

It has also tarnished the image of the UAE, angering officials who have said that pressure from Manila could jeopardise Ms. Balabagan's chances for freedom in an appeal trial expected to last up to two months.

The outrage over the case has left some UAE nationals wondering why their traditionally low-key country has come under international fire.

The Justice Ministry has backed the death sentence, but the government is pursuing a reconciliation formula with Baloushi's family.

Officials will try again to persuade the family to drop the death sentence in exchange for blood money, an official said.

Ms. Balabagan's parents and younger sister arrived in the UAE on Saturday to plead for her life and are carrying an affidavit showing that she is 16. The UAE says she is 27 based on documents Philippine officials say were forged.

UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan ordered a retrial after the same Al Ain court in June sentenced Ms. Balabagan to seven years imprisonment for manslaughter.

It also awarded her compensation after concluding she had been raped.

The UAE federal supreme court must endorse any death sentence and an execution must be approved by Sheikh Zayed.

President Fidel Ramos said he would ask Sheikh Zayed to pardon Ms. Balabagan if the death sentence sticks.

Few UAE nationals appear to favour clemency.

"In the street, the word is the death sentence should be carried out," said Jamal Al Hosany.

## Kamel's case against Alef Baa is dismissed

AMMAN (J.T.) — An Iraqi court has dropped a case against two Iraqi journalists filed by former Iraqi Minister of Industry Hussein Kamel, who defected to Jordan in August.

The case was filed against Najlaa Qader from Alef Baa magazine and her editor 'Amir Al Helou on alleged defamation charges, the Al Ra'i daily reported.

On Jan. 25, 1995 Alef Baa published a report about the absence from the markets of tomatoes grown in green houses. It quoted farmers as saying that no plastic cover was available to the farmers from the concerned authorities and that some of the sheets produced by the Ministry of Industry were sold in the black market to selected farmers.

Following the publication of the report, Lieutenant-General Kamel sued the magazine's editor and the reporter accusing them of libel against a government establishment.

Court Judge Ibrahim Hindawi, who studied the case, announced that after examining the case he found no defamation or slander against any Iraqi official or the Ministry of Industry, Al Ra'i said.

"The report merely reported the words of farmers who had suffered from the damage to their crops due to the lack of plastic sheets and their inability to purchase plastic sheets whose prices were skyrocketing on the black market," added the judge.

## Libyans paid \$50,000 to Egyptian opposition leader - Rose Al Yousef

CAIRO (AP) — Libya paid \$50,000 to an Egyptian opposition party — in violation of Egyptian law — to obtain political favours, Egypt's most prominent magazine said Sunday.

The weekly Rose Al Yousef published a copy of a letter from a top Libyan official authorising the payment in 1991 to Mustafa Kamel Murad, leader of the small, opposition Liberal Party.

The magazine, which is government-owned but with a reputation for aggressive, investigative reporting, said the \$50,000 payment was part of Colonel Moammar Qadhafi's programme to fund Egyptian opposition parties in return for their support of Libya.

Mr. Murad declined to comment on the charges Sunday.

It was not clear why the weekly chose to publish the letter now, but it comes a month before parliamentary elections that President Hosni Mubarak's party has sought to make free and fair.

The Liberal Party is a small group with little influence during the 1991 Gulf war when it supported Iraq. Several opposition parties have set up in Egypt in recent years, but none pose a challenge to Mubarak's ruling party.

Libya, flush with substantial oil revenues, has often funded movements abroad as a way to increase its influence. Such payments have long been rumoured in neighbouring Egypt, despite a ban on political parties receiving any financing from foreign countries.

The magazine said other Egyptian opposition parties were financed by Libya, too, but declined to name them.

In his daily column Sunday in the party's daily Al-Ahram newspaper, Mr. Murad described Col. Qadhafi as "the only Arab leader who stands with his head high at a time of Arab surrender."

## JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 Shelley Duval's Bodine Stories  
14:30 ..... Hey Day  
15:00 ..... Survival  
15:30 ..... I Love Lucy  
17:00 Children's programme — Les Mondes Englouts  
17:30 Serie — Les Aventures Du Rio Verde  
18:00 ..... News in French  
18:30 ..... Magazine — Minibus  
19:30 ..... News Headlines  
20:00 ..... Camp Wildcat  
20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful  
21:30 ..... Haris of the West  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Inspector Morse  
23:30 ..... American Chart Show  
23:59 ..... Stamp of Circumstances

### PRAYER TIMES

04:13 ..... Fajr  
05:30 ..... (Sunrise) Duha  
11:23 ..... Dhur  
14:42 ..... 'Asr  
17:16 ..... Maghrib  
18:33 ..... 'Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Swellish, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 63785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 623566.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 652826.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 773131.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church Tel. 625256.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 634328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195.

The Latter-day Saints Tel. 654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Moderate weather conditions will prevail with temperatures around average and winds north-westerly moderate, in Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas calm.

Mia/Max. temp. Amman ..... 14/27

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### AGAS

20 / 32  
Deserts ..... 12 / 30  
Jordan Valley ..... 19 / 33

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27, Aqaba 38 Humidity readings: Amman 35 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Hisham Kan'an ..... 649028

Dr. Nasser Ibrahim ..... 649028

Dr. Usamah Hussini ..... 847289

Dr. Issam Al Asmar ..... 890504

Fires pharmacy ..... 661912

Ferdows pharmacy ..... 778336

Al Asma pharmacy ..... 637035

Nairoukh pharmacy ..... 623672

Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636790

Yacoub pharmacy ..... 649445

Shmeisat pharmacy ..... 637640

Nairoukh pharmacy ..... 623672

Najib pharmacy ..... 847632

REID: Dr. Mohammad Al Oadi ..... 248743

Aqaba pharmacy ..... (-)

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111

Civil Defence Department ..... 661111

Rescue ..... 630341

Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade ..... 617101

Blood Bank ..... 775121

Highway Police ..... 843402

Traffic Police ..... 896590

Public Security Department ..... 63021

Hotel Complaints ..... 605800

Price Complaints ..... 661176

Water and Sewerage Company ..... 897467

Amman Municipality Complaints ..... 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121

Overseas Calls ..... 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs ..... 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101

Jordan Television ..... 773111

Radio Jordan ..... 680100

Water Authority ..... 815615

Jordan Electricity Authority

Electric Power Company ..... 636381

RJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport ..... 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

### Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn

644281/6

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 642412/2

Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642562

Malthas, J. Amman ..... 636140

Palatine, Shmeisat ..... 664171/4

Shmeisat Hospital ..... 669131

University Hospital ..... 843845

Al-Musabir Hospital ..... 667221/9

Al-Islamic, Abdali ..... 666127/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen ..... 77101/3

Al-Basheir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/28

Army, Marka ..... 891011/15

Queen Alia Hospital ..... 602240/50

Amal Hospital ..... 674155

The Arab Center for Heart and Special Surgery ..... 865199

Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarga National Hospital

Al-Sina Hospital ..... (09)900560

Al-Hikma Modern Hospital ..... (09)986732

Al-Hikma Modern Hospital ..... (09)986732

Al-Hikma Modern Hospital ..... (09)986732

Al-Hikma Modern Hospital







## Conservative MP defects to Labour in body blow to Major

LONDON (R) — A senior Conservative member of parliament has defected to the opposition Labour Party, dealing a body blow to Prime Minister John Major on the eve of his party's annual conference.

Alan Howarth's shock move — he is the first Conservative ever to "cross the floor" of parliament to join Labour — reduced Mr. Major's already fragile majority in parliament to five.

Attacking the party that has been in office since 1979 but is now deeply unpopular with voters, the former minister said: "There is an arrogance of power and a harshness within the government which is damaging to our democracy."

"There is a kind of listlessness, a lack of vision," the former minister told BBC Television Sunday.

Conservative Party Chairman Brian

Mawhinney, fighting to contain the political damage from Mr. Howarth's resignation, said the decision was bizarre, eccentric and sad.

Mr. Major, who in June fought off a right-wing challenge to his leadership after months of sniping, hoped to use this week's Conservative conference to stage a political fightback in the run-up to the next election, due by mid-1997.

But Mr. Howarth's defection has given valuable ammunition to Labour, already in buoyant mood after its own annual conference resoundingly backed centrist leader Tony Blair. Mr. Howarth, who had a safe seat in William Shakespeare's birthplace town of Stratford-upon-Avon, switched sides after secret talks with the modernist Blair, whose own party has abandoned much of its socialist dogma.

Deputy Labour leader

John Prescott, welcoming Mr. Howarth into the party, said: "This is a further blow to John Major and his divided and despised party."

Conservatives were stunned after Mr. Howarth announced his resignation Saturday night. The timing could not have been worse, severely bruising morale on the eve of the party conference in the holiday resort of Blackpool.

The Conservatives already trail Labour by more than 20 percentage points in opinion polls.

Voters are angered by policy U-turns, party in-fighting over Britain's role in the European Union, allegations of sleaze and a string of sexual and financial scandals.

Conservative grandee Lord Howe, whose bitter attack on Mr. Major's predecessor Margaret Thatcher led to her downfall, even hinted that time had finally run out for the

Conservatives.

"We live in a democracy. Even the Conservatives don't have the secret of eternal life. Power must change from time to time," he warned last week.

Conservatives hoping to attack Mr. Blair for making spendthrift promises in his conference speech were given little ammunition.

Everything Mr. Blair promised — smaller class sizes, cable links for schools — would either be funded by cuts elsewhere or provided free by grateful companies who have been cosy up to Labour as it looks increasingly like a government in waiting.

Hailing the speech as an election turning point, the Economist magazine concluded: "His speech and this conference could be seen in retrospect as the decisive moment. Even the Tories, who never yield easily, may be forgiven a shiver."



Franciscan friars of the Immaculate Church from New Bedford, Massachusetts, pray with Pope John Paul II during a mass in New York (AFP photo)

## Pope prays as AIDS activists protest

NEW YORK (R) — Pope John Paul II enjoyed a pop-star's reception from 125,000 New Yorkers Saturday and filled a city cathedral with adoring faithful but gays and feminists staged the first serious protests of his U.S. tour.

Devout Roman Catholics prayed with their spiritual leader in St. Patrick's Cathedral, many of them weeping with joy and claiming a special religious experience.

But more than 200 gay and lesbian demonstrators, kept at a distance outside by riot police, shouted "stop AIDS, stop the homophobia, stop the Pope."

Police ripped down a three-storey high banner declaring "condoms save lives" that AIDS activists unfurled from the roof of the Saks Department Store opposite St. Patrick's.

Six demonstrators were arrested over the banner and four others during a separate protest march.

In the march, actress

Olympia Dukakis and feminist leader Gloria Steinem led several hundred women demanding the church end its bans against abortion and women priests.

"We are not here against the Pope. The Pope is against us," Ms. Steinem said. "We're to encourage women not to lose hope just because the Pope is in town and there's such a production about it," said Dukakis.

But the adulation far outweighed the protests, despite the unpopularity of the Pope's conservative policies here.

Many famous Americans took the chance to be at the Pope's side. Rightwing television evangelist Pat Robertson was a surprise guest at the Pope's huge mass for 125,000 people in Central Park, sitting on a podium of religious leaders at the side of the altar.

Mr. Robertson later attended a meeting between the Pope and more than 30 Christian and Muslim lead-

ers. Veteran comedian Bob Hope, and New York's top political leaders including Mayor Rudolph Giuliani were in St. Patrick's where the Pope recited the rosary.

The Pope got a rapturous welcome when he transformed Central Park into a huge outdoor cathedral.

He told a whooping, cheering crowd that America was a brave nation. "Do not be afraid always to search for God, then you will truly be the land of the free and home of the brave."

The crowd in the park, green heart of New York, listened intently to his message of compassion for AIDS sufferers, the poor and the homeless.

The Pope also pressed his crusade against abortion, a burning issue in America, urging Catholics to work against it, and condemned pornography and so-called assisted suicide.

## China's Jiang tries to eclipse Mao

BEIJING (R) — In a major policy statement inspired by Chairman Mao Tseung, China's President Jiang Zemin has told provincial leaders not to defy Beijing and said stability is fundamental to Communist Party rule.

In his 10,000-word speech issued by Xinhua News Agency Sunday, Mr. Jiang announced what he called 12 major relationships that China must tackle, apparently trying to eclipse Mao whose "10 major relationships" address of 1956 was among the most important of his career.

Addressing the closing of the fifth plenum of the 14th Communist Party Central Committee on Sept. 28, Mr. Jiang said many new problems had cropped up between the central and local governments.

Some localities and departments had paid undue attention to their own interests, failed to implement central government principles and policies and went so far as to disobey orders and defy prohibitions, Mr. Jiang said.

"We will not allow the existence of neither local interests nor departmental interests that jeopardise the interests of the country as a whole," he said.

Beijing has repeatedly

defying it, for example by arbitrarily raising prices and easing credit, moves the central government says jeopardise its attempts to rein in inflation.

The toppling of Beijing Communist Party boss Chen Xitong last month was seen by some political analysts as a coup for Jiang and a warning to defiant local power brokers.

To accomplish the targets and strategic tasks over the next years, China must seize opportunities, deepen reforms, open up wider to the outside world and promote development and maintain stability, Jiang said.

"Practice has shown that by handling properly the relationship between the reform, development and stability, we will be able to grasp the overall situation and ensure a smooth economic and social development. Otherwise, we will suffer and pay for it," he said.

He said China was now in a period of economic transition. With "drastic changes" taking place, it was of great and immediate significance to maintain stability, he said.

"Without a stable political and social environment, nothing can be done and it will be difficult to accomplish any plan no matter

how good it is."

Some people were getting rich too quickly, Mr. Jiang said.

National income distribution was inclined toward the individual and the share of the state was too small, he said, adding that the income gap between rich and poor was too big.

He ruled out the possibility of allowing lumbering state enterprises to declare bankruptcy en masse.

"Only by ensuring the dominant position of the public sector can we prevent polarisation and achieve common prosperity," Mr. Jiang said.

"Any move to shake or give up the dominant position of the public sector will deviate from the direction of socialism."

Mr. Jiang said giving full play to the role of market mechanism and strengthening macro-control were both fundamental demands for the establishment of a socialist market economic system.

"None of them can be dispensed with. On no account should they be separated or even antagonised. To stress only one side to the neglect of the other will be detrimental to the great cause of reform and economic development," he said.

## Pakistan wants U.S. mediation on Kashmir

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — The United States should play an aggressive role in finding a peaceful solution to the worsening Indo-Pakistan dispute over the Himalayan state of Kashmir, a senior official said Sunday.

"It is not just an India and Pakistan dispute," Foreign Minister Sardar Aseff Ali told reporters in the Pakistani capital. "It is the principal issue in South Asia which threatens to destabilise the region."

During his recent trip to the United States to attend the opening sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. Aseff Ali called on U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry to urge the Clinton administration to mediate talks between India and Pakistan.

"Now the ball is in the court of the U.S. to pressure India to come to the negotiating table," Mr. Aseff Ali said.

India and Pakistan have been at odds over the Kashmir region since the territory was divided between the two countries at the end of British rule in 1947.

Despite repeated efforts and offers from the United Nations for mediation, neither India nor Pakistan has been able to agree to meet to discuss the growing rift over Kashmir.

Pakistan believes the Kashmir issue ought to be kept separate from other bilateral topics. India, on the other hand, maintains it must be taken as only one part of overall relations between the two countries.

The dispute has triggered two of three Indo-Pakistan wars in less than five decades.

One study commissioned by the U.S. senate declared Kashmir one of the most destabilising factors in South Asia, where both Pakistan and India are suspected to have the capacity to build nuclear weapons.

Mr. Aseff Ali Sunday ruled out the possibility of direct bilateral talks with India even through regional organisations, including the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

Since the end of the cold war, U.S. relations have improved dramatically with India — once the former Soviet Union's largest trading partner outside of the Communist Bloc.

Washington's influence with India, along with its rebounding ties with Pakistan, could offer the United States a solid position as an honest broker between the two countries, Mr. Aseff Ali said.

## Fresh tremors cause panic in quake-hit Indonesian island

SUNGAI PENUH, Indonesia (R) — Fresh tremors caused panic Sunday at the scene of a devastating earthquake on Indonesia's Sumatra Island which killed at least 78 people 24 hours earlier, officials said.

A 41-member medical team, including five specialists, was flown from Jakarta to the remote mountain region around the northwest Sumatran town of Sungai Penuh Sunday morning to treat the more than 2,000 injured.

Officials said several tonnes of rice and large quantities of quick-cooking noodles had been transported to the quake-hit areas, where residents slept overnight in tents pitched outside what was left of their homes in fear of further tremors.

Most expected to spend a second night under the open sky.

"The residents were afraid to sleep in their houses because they were afraid there might be more earthquakes and might be crushed," local government official Fuad Yusuf told Reuters.

He said two army helicopters were being used in rescue operations while another two were on standby.

Mr. Fuad said 100 rescuers had been dispatched to the area.

Irsal Nurdin, 35, of Koto

Diarr village, eight kilometres from Sungai Penuh, said its 475 residents feared for their lives when aftershocks rattled the area Sunday morning.

"This morning we panicked because of fresh tremors that lasted two or three seconds. The tremors were not severe but we were really scared," he told Reuters by telephone.

"The supply of electricity and water has still not been restored. Local authorities are distributing food, but I am sure we will need more supplies," he said.

Authorities said the death toll from the earthquake, measuring 7.0 on the open-ended Richter Scale, was 74 but one Jakarta newspaper quoted unidentified sources as saying 143 had died.

The quake flattened more than 10,000 buildings in villages around Sungai Penuh, a hill town 750 kilometres northwest of Jakarta, when it struck at 1:10 a.m. (1810 GMT Friday).

The tremor's epicentre was on land 16 kilometres southeast Sungai Penuh which has a population of more than 40,000 people.

Many of the injured spent Saturday night outside in the cold fearing more tremors.

"We are not brave enough to enter our houses as there is news there may be aftershocks," Salmi, a resident from Pulau Sangkar village

in Kerinci district, told Antara.

Fires dotted the area around Sungai Penuh as survivors tried to stay warm during the night.

Antara said fear swept through the area around Sungai Penuh after rumours the dormant volcano Mount Kerinci was erupting and spewing lava. Authorities were swift to quash the reports.

Officials said casualties were likely to rise because the quake had triggered landslides on the slopes of Sumatra's mountain backbone.

Antara said records showed Kerinci had been hit by large quakes in 1903 and 1943 and geologists believed a 50-year cycle was at work in the region.

Residents said the quake and several aftershocks swept the area, toppling buildings and sending panic through the sleeping town and nearby villages.

Nine-month pregnant Nisawati managed to escape with her eight-year-old son through a window of her collapsed house when the quake struck. "It was terrifying," she said.

Truckloads of military rescue teams began to arrive from the nearest major town, Jambi, 24 hours after the quake struck and began distributing food.

## Fergie still out of favour with royals — paper

LONDON — Britain's Queen Elizabeth will keep the Duchess of York from the limelight if she reunites with her estranged husband Prince Andrew, according to the Mail On Sunday newspaper. Britain's press have reported the couple, who separated in 1992, are in love again and ready to make a new start. But Queen Elizabeth is adamant the duchess will not be allowed to resume royal duties, the Mail said. "It has become clear that the queen has no intention of rescinding the strict conditions imposed on the duchess when the marriage broke down," the newspaper said.

## Madonna to play title role in Evita

LONDON (AFP) — Singer-actress Madonna will play the title role in a film adaptation of the musical Evita about the fiery wife of former Argentine leader Juan Domingo Peron, the film's producers announced. Filming under the direction of British film-maker Alan Parker is scheduled to begin Jan. 18 and last 14 weeks. The film will be shot in Europe and South America, they said. Madonna will play alongside Jonathan Pryce, in the role of Juan Domingo Peron, and Antonio Banderas in the adaptation of the musical written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice.

## Michael Bolton is available

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Fluttering female hearts be still, American pop singer Michael Bolton is available, having called off a romance with actress Nicolette Sheridan. "I think it's safe to say there is still a lot between us. It's not going to disappear," Bolton said in an interview with USA Today. "Raw is a good way to put it ... Time will tell," the long-haired singer with the soulful voice said.

## Julio's bad side

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Julio Iglesias has a bad side. As the crooner greeted several hundred fans Friday at a circuit city store, he pleaded with photographers to shoot only his right side. "Please no, that's my bad side," he said to one uncooperative photographer who snapped from the left. The 53-year-old was in San Antonio for a concert to promote his new all-Spanish CD "La Carretera."

## Boy George takes it like a man

DALLAS (AP) — Boy George took it like a man. The British singer ordered 3 ounces of wheatgrass juice and a tall glass of carrot-celery juice for breakfast Thursday at the Bluebonnet Cafe. Sounds healthy, all right, but most connoisseurs can only down about an ounce of wheatgrass juice at a single go. Just a gulp of the grassy-tasting drink — known for its cleansing and detoxifying powers — can make first-timers dizzy and nauseous. The singer was in town to promote his new autobiography. Take It Like A Man.

## Sa Carneiro's body unearthed in search of sabotage evidence

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — Investigators Saturday exhumed the body of late Prime Minister Francisco Sa Carneiro in search of evidence that the 1980 plane crash that killed him was caused by sabotage.

The body of the charismatic leader of the center-right Social Democratic Party was unearthed at Lisbon's Paco De Lumiar Cemetery in the presence of a judge and removed under police guard, cemetery official Manuel Rodrigues said.

Forensic experts at Lisbon's Pathology Institute were to search for traces of metals indicating the Cessna light aircraft carrying Mr. Sa Carneiro to northern Oporto might have been brought down by a bomb and not by technical failure as was ruled after the crash.

Mr. Sa Carneiro's Swedish companion Snu Abecassis, his defence Minister Adelino Amaro Da Costa and five others were killed when their twin-

engined plane crashed on Dec. 4, 1980, near the village of Camarate just after take off from Lisbon Airport.

The crash came at a time of political turmoil five years after left-wing army captains overthrew a 48-year dictatorship.

Initial investigations ruled the crash was an accident. Later reports pointed to negligence. Only recently has evidence emerged pointing to the possibility of a bomb.



Fergie still out of favour with royals — paper

LONDON — Britain's Queen Elizabeth will keep the Duchess of York from the limelight if she returns with her estranged husband Prince Andrew, according to the Mail On Sunday newspaper. Britain's press have reported the couple who separated in 1992, are to love again and ready to take a new start. Britain's Elizabeth II is reluctant the duchess will be allowed to resume royal duties. The Mail said it has become clear the queen has no intention of rescinding the strict conditions imposed on the duchess when the marriage broke down, the newspaper said.

Madonna to play title role in Evita

LONDON (AFP) — Singer-actress Madonna will play the title role in the film adaptation of the musical Evita about the first wife of Argentine leader Juan Domingo Peron, the film producers announced. The film, directed by British film-maker Al Pacino, is scheduled to begin Jan. 18 and last 10 weeks. The film will be set in Europe and South America, they said. Madonna will play the role of Juan Domingo Peron's first wife, and Antonio Banderas in the role of Juan Domingo Peron. The musical, written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice.

Michael Bolton is available

WASHINGTON (AP) — Following a male heart, Michael Bolton is available. Bolton is available, having called off the hounds with a little. Bolton said he is still a little bit of a heartbreaker, but he is going to be a heartbreaker. Bolton said he is still a little bit of a heartbreaker, but he is going to be a heartbreaker. Bolton said he is still a little bit of a heartbreaker, but he is going to be a heartbreaker.

Julio's bad side

AN ANTONIO (AP) — The Iglesias has a bad side. As the crown prince of several hundred families, he pleaded with photographers to shoot only his good side. "Please don't shoot my bad side," he said. The singer's bad side is his bad side. The singer's bad side is his bad side. The singer's bad side is his bad side.

Boy George takes it like a man

ALLAS (AP) — Boy George took it like a man. The British singer ordered a glass of whisky and a tall glass of beer. The singer ordered a glass of whisky and a tall glass of beer. The singer ordered a glass of whisky and a tall glass of beer. The singer ordered a glass of whisky and a tall glass of beer.



SHUTTLE DELAYED AGAIN: Space shuttle Colombia Commander Kenneth Bowersox (right) and Kathryn Thornton (left) lead crewmates (rear left to right) Kent Rominger, Catherine Coleman, Michael Lopez-Alergia, Fred Leslie and Albert Sacco from the Operation and Checkout Building on their way to launch pad 39-B. The Colombia flight was postponed for the fourth time (AFP photo)

### Dhaka opposition leader warns of fierce campaign

DHAKA (R) — Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina told Bangladeshis Sunday to prepare for a stormy campaign to force the government from power as a 32-hour strike virtually crippled Dhaka and four other major cities for the second day.

Vehicles poured back on the rain-drenched streets of Dhaka, the capital of nine million people, after the strike ended at 2 p.m. (0800 GMT), witnesses said.

"They said thousands of police and paramilitary soldiers wrapped in raincoats folded their guns and left for their barracks.

"The people have already expressed their no confidence in the illegal, corrupt and autocratic regime of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia," Mrs. Hasina said in a statement.

"The latest strike proved it more clearly...It was complete and peaceful. People responded to the strike spontaneously," she said.

"Now I urge all of you to make the upcoming 96-hour national strike, due to begin on Oct. 16, a bigger success so that Khaleda Zia would be compelled to accept our demand for elections under a neutral caretaker administration.

"We want to ensure people's right to vote freely and without fear. To achieve that goal, we will not hesitate to pursue a stormy and more fierce campaign," she said without giving more details.

The stoppage began at 6 a.m. (0000 GMT) Saturday in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Sylhet and Barisal. Rajshahi, the other major city in the north, was exempted from the strike because of serious floods in the area which have killed scores of people and made millions homeless.

Sunday, like Saturday, is a working day in Bangladesh, but most offices, schools and businesses were closed, witnesses said.

Government leaders accused the opposition of "pursuing their selfish goals" at the expense of people's suffering.

"The strike has hampered movement of relief goods from Dhaka to the flooded districts. This is very inhuman," said Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, acting secretary-general of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

Police described the strike Sunday as one of the "most peaceful and unprovoked" since the opposition began their push to topple Mrs. Khaleda early last year.

They said several home-made bombs exploded in Dhaka around the end of the strike but no one was hurt.

"These were all firecracker types...meant for celebration of what the opposition considered their victory in strike," one officer said.

"Police did not have to use force against anyone," he told Reuters.

Chittagong, the country's main port, was closed but activities in the other port of Chalna were normal, port officials said.

The opposition wants Mrs. Khaleda, elected in 1991, to be "banned" as Bangladesh's first free polls, to step down immediately and allow elections supervised by a neutral caretaker administration.

They say elections with Mrs. Khaleda in power could not be free and fair. She has refused to step aside.

The next general election is not due till March, 1996.

### Japan minister set to quit, coalition seeks unity

TOKYO (R) — Japan's shaky ruling coalition, battered by the justice minister's alleged deal with the opposition, scrambled for unity Sunday ahead of a parliamentary debate on the budget and tighter controls on religious groups.

The move followed a newspaper report that Justice Minister Tomoharu Tazawa struck a backroom deal with the main opposition party to drop embarrassing questions in parliament over his loan from a lay Buddhist organisation.

In exchange, Mr. Tazawa promised to oppose a controversial government bill to tighten control over religious organisations, legislation vehemently opposed by the Shinshinto (New Frontier Party), the Yomiuri newspaper alleged Friday.

Mr. Tazawa, who denied the report, would step down Monday due to pressure from his colleagues in the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the biggest partner in Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama's three-way coalition, news reports said.

Hiroshi Miyazawa, the brother of former Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, was expected to replace Mr. Tazawa, they said.

Mr. Murayama would not stop Mr. Tazawa from handing in his resignation, top government spokesman Koken Nosaka said Saturday.

"I feel very unhappy with what he did," senior LDP lawmaker Hikaru Matsunaga said on an NHK public television talk show Sunday.

Mr. Tazawa also came under attack from Mr. Murayama's socialists. "It is natural that he should resign," Socialist legislator Tomio Sakagami told the show.

Coalition officials were particularly furious over Mr. Tazawa's alleged secret deal to take sides with Shinshinto over the revision of the religious organisation law.

"What Tazawa did is troublesome when we are about to start a parliamentary debate on the revision of the religious institution act," the LDP's Matsunaga said.

Socialist Sakagami said Mr. Murayama should sack the justice minister to secure unity in the government.

Apart from a five trillion yen (\$50 billion) supplementary budget, Mr. Murayama pledged to press for the revision of the 44-year-old religious law during the current special parliamentary session due to end on Nov. 13.

The government moved to draft a bill designed to put tighter controls on the nation's more than 200,000 religious groups soon after the nerve gas attack on Tokyo subways killed 11 and made about 5,000 passengers ill on March 20.

But the opposition Shinshinto, backed largely by members of major Buddhist lay group Soka Gakkai, has vowed to block the bill to revise the religious organisation law.

"Mindful of possible general elections, we will deal with the issue," senior Shinshinto official Kazuo Aichi said during Sunday's talk show.

Mr. Murayama must call elections by mid-1997.

A head-on clash between the coalition and the opposition over the religious law could plunge domestic politics into a fresh turmoil and delay the long-awaited budget.

The extra budget, the biggest ever submitted in Japan's parliament, forms part of a 14.2 trillion-yen (\$142 billion) package of economic measures unveiled last month.

### Gore, Chernomyrdin hold talks at Maine Airport

BANGOR, Maine (R) — U.S. Vice President Al Gore and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin called their private meeting at a Maine Airport Saturday "productive" but declined to give details on what was discussed.

Mr. Gore and Mr. Chernomyrdin told reporters in an impromptu news conference that the two hours of talks covered a broad range of bilateral concerns, including Bosnia, but focused mostly on issues of economic cooperation.

"It was a very productive very useful dialogue," Mr. Gore said. "We're not going to divulge any of the details of it because this was a discussion about nuts and bolts in a business-like, common-sense way."

President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin had requested their number two men meet, and Mr. Gore said Saturday's talks dealt with issues that needed "practical, common-sense attention" prior to the presidents' own meeting later this month in New York.

An aide to Mr. Gore said prior to Saturday's meeting that it was an opportunity to "monitor" the progress of the U.S.-Russian joint commission on economic and technological cooperation, which the two men co-chair.

The commission created by Mr. Clinton and Mr. Yeltsin is designed to increase cooperation between the countries in space and energy development.

The leaders dismissed reporters' suggestions that it was odd for them to be talking about economic development while the two countries remained at odds on several diplomatic issues such as Bosnia.

"Frankly it's hard for me to say that improvements in the life of an average working family in either one of our countries is not important," Mr. Gore said.

Saturday's session marked the second Gore-Chernomyrdin meeting in less than four months. Their last meeting was a high-profile conference in Moscow that included the signing of a \$15 billion deal to develop oil and gas fields in Russia's far eastern island of Sakhalin.

The vice president and prime minister are expected to meet again in Moscow early next year.

Aides said Saturday's meeting was held in Bangor, a small city in northern Maine, largely to accommodate Mr. Chernomyrdin's travel schedule.

The prime minister Friday completed a three-day official visit to Canada. Bangor's airport was also convenient because it is a major refuelling facility for planes headed to Europe.

## Yeltsin sacks top prosecutor

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin sacked Russia's acting Prosecutor-General Alexei Ilyushenko Sunday after accusations that he was cracking down too hard on the Kremlin leader's critics.

Mr. Yeltsin signed decrees relieving Mr. Ilyushenko of his duties at the top of Russia's judicial system and replacing him temporarily with a deputy, Oleg Gaidanov, Mr. Yeltsin's press office said.

"The president considers this a civil act which reflects the moral spirit and sense of political responsibility in the state administration," Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman Sergei Medvedev said on Russian television.

Mr. Medvedev said Mr. Ilyushenko had presented Mr. Yeltsin with a letter of resignation which the president accepted.

The decision was likely to be seen as a move to get rid of a supporter with a tarnished reputation ahead of elections in December.

Mr. Ilyushenko won a reputation for being too keen to defend Mr. Yeltsin after starting a series of cases against his critics.

He opened legal proceedings against the independent television channel NTV for interviewing Chechen guerrilla Shamil Basayev. NTV has been at odds with government information services over its frank coverage of the war with rebel Chechens.

He also opened proceedings against the makers of the satirical televised puppet show Kukly, a Russian version of Britain's Spitting Image satire, saying its mocking depiction of Russia's political bosses was insulting.

Mr. Yeltsin said in September that time was running out for the prosecutor, after another embarrassing report in the Russian media linked Mr. Ilyushenko's wife to underworld business.

"Of course Mr. Ilyushenko denies everything...but after all these blemishes, I will hardly recommend him again as prosecutor-general," Mr. Yeltsin told a news conference then.

Mr. Yeltsin appointed Mr. Ilyushenko in February 1994 but a hostile parliament twice refused to confirm him. He was due to present a permanent candidate for the post soon, but it had become clear Mr. Ilyushenko would not be it.

Mr. Ilyushenko's temporary replacement, Oleg Gaidanov, 50, was one of seven deputy prosecutors and was in charge of criminal investigations, the Rossiyskiye Vesti daily said Saturday.

Mr. Medvedev stressed that Mr. Gaidanov's appointment was temporary and that Mr. Yeltsin would present a new candidate soon. Interfax News Agency said.

Mr. Yeltsin's top aide Georgy Satarov told Ekho Moskvy radio the president would probably choose a candidate from outside Moscow for the post.

### Grachev: Chechnya talks should be suspended

GENEVA (R) — Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev has said he thought the fragile Chechnya peace process should be suspended after a bomb attack which seriously wounded Russia's military commander in the breakaway region.

Arriving in Geneva for talks Sunday with U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry, Gen. Grachev told Russian reporters: "It was the second explosion, a deliberate crime. I personally would interrupt talks."

Three servicemen were killed and 15 other people were injured when a bomb detonated by remote control blew up a motorcade carrying Lieutenant-General Anatoly Romanov, who was in the centre of Chechnya's capital, Grozny, Friday.

Gen. Romanov, who was said to have suffered wounds to his head, legs and abdomen, was flown back to Moscow for treatment Saturday.

It was the second assassination attempt against a senior Russian figure in Chechnya in two weeks.

Gen. Grachev, known as a hardliner over the Chechen question, said President Boris Yeltsin and his government were working out their next steps in the crisis.

A senior Russian official in Grozny said a state of emergency might be declared.

Gen. Grachev said: "We can't make peace with these people. I've warned before that the number of Chechen fighters is increasing. They have the technical ability and the weapons, tanks and armoured personnel carriers. Bandits should be eliminated."

President Yeltsin was considering imposing a state of emergency on Grozny after his military commander there was badly injured.

Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman told TASS the president was weighing a government call for a state of emergency in Grozny following Friday's bombing, which came during a delicate stage in peace negotiations with the Chechen rebels.

Spokesman Sergei Medvedev said Mr. Yeltsin saw grounds for such a measure but he added: "It is necessary to consider all the consequences which could follow declaring a state of emergency."

A curfew is still in force in Grozny and it was not clear what extra measures a state of emergency would involve.

Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman said Friday that Moscow would honour deals with the rebels "despite provocation and terrorist acts."

A spokesman for the Russian command in Chechnya, quoted by TASS, said terrorist acts had increased, with 34 civilians killed in September alone, since a ceasefire was declared.

Shots fired from a grenade launcher slightly damaged the Grozny building of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which has been mediating in peace talks, at midday Saturday, TASS said. No one was injured.

TASS also said a Chechen field commander was killed when a house he was staying in west of Grozny was attacked with flame throwers and grenade launchers. The report did not say whether the attackers were Russians or Chechens.

### U.S. administration is making 'big noise' — Cuba

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Cuba's Socialist rulers have found some common ground with conservatives in Washington: they don't think much of President Bill Clinton's moves to increase U.S.-Cuban contacts.

A top Cuban leader Friday night denounced Mr. Clinton's proposals as "a senseless publicity show" and an attempt to undermine Fidel Castro's Socialist system. After all, Mr. Clinton himself said that was the idea.

"They have made a big noise over something that is absolutely nothing," said Ricardo Alarcon, the president of Cuba's parliament and the country's top expert on the United States.

Republicans in Washington denounced the proposals as well, but from a different angle. Senate majority leader Bob Dole said the initiative is evidence of administration weakness toward Cuba.

Sen. Phil Gramm, a Texan who like Sen. Dole is running for the Republican presidential nomination, accused Mr. Clinton of "putting out the welcome mat to Castro instead of tightening the noose around his aging neck."

Mr. Clinton announced Friday he was ending a ban on U.S. news organisations operating from Cuba and said the government would ease restrictions on travel to Cuba by academic, religious and human rights workers.

He said the moves would "encourage its peaceful transition to a free and open society" and he vowed to tighten enforcement of the 33-year-old U.S. embargo of the island "to keep the pressure on."

Mr. Clinton also announced a \$500,000 grant to freedom house, a U.S.-based group, for work with non-governmental organisations in Cuba to "promote peaceful change and protect human rights."

Mr. Alarcon said the plan seemed to do little more than allow emergency visits to Cuban exiles who want to visit ill or dying family members on the island.

"The rest is to financially aid and train so-called human rights groups with subversive ends to undermine the revolution from within," he said.

Economist Carmen Triana Deere, a specialist on Cuba who is former president of the Latin American Studies Association, said Clinton officials should have expected a negative Cuban reaction.

"The way they presented it, the whole tone is going to be so objectionable to the Cubans that they can only react by becoming more paranoid," she said.

In recent months, Castro has begun to warn against U.S. attempts to use increased contacts by academics, journalists and others to undermine the Socialist government.

He said in July that backers of the limited opening "want to destroy us from within."

"These people want to exert their influence through broad exchanges with diverse sectors that they consider vulnerable, to grant doubtful scholarships and to dazzle us with their billion-dollar institutions, their technology and their social research centres," he said.

That reaction has begun to worry even some in the Clinton administration.

Richard Nuccio, White House adviser on Cuban affairs, expressed concern at a seminar last week that U.S. support for non-governmental groups in Cuba could make them be seen as "as a possible enemy... of the Cuban government."

He said it "would be a tragedy for Cuba" if that led Mr. Castro's government to crack down on the private sector, which has grown on Cuba since 1989 as a financial crisis has forced the government to permit small businesses and independent organisations.

Mr. Alarcon did not flatly reject the idea of letting U.S. news organisations open offices in Cuba, saying the organisations would have to discuss that with the Cuban government.

In the past, Cubans have demanded that the United States end a ban on Cuban news operations in the United States and halt the anti-Castro broadcasts of Radio and Television Marti, which are funded by the U.S. government.

Administration officials said Friday that they would let Cuban news media operate in the United States, but only after Cuba had opened its doors to U.S. news organisations.

### Police chief urges officers to get over Simpson case

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Although he still believes O. J. Simpson is guilty of murder, police Chief Willie Williams told his officers they must accept the jury's innocent verdict.

"Mr. Simpson had his day in court. As professionals, we must accept the verdict," Chief Williams said in the speech played during station roll calls this weekend. It was released Saturday to the news media.

Chief Williams said the department had been wrongly battered by Simpson's lawyers, who argued that their client was framed by evidence planted by one or more detectives.

"No evidence has ever been shown that robbery-homicide west LA and... any others ever conspired to plant blood, to plant other evidence, to plant a glove, all the things that the entire Simpson defence team raised over the past 15 months," he said.

"Hang in there," he told the officers. "You've been a great credit to law enforcement, not just in this city, but in this country."

The trial of Simpson, a former football star, actor and TV sports commentator, transfixed the nation.

Meanwhile, an attorney for victim Ronald Goldman's family said Simpson has been ordered to give a deposition on Oct. 16 for the wrongful death civil lawsuit the family filed against him.

"We're going to question him about every aspect surrounding the case," attorney Robert Tourtelot said Saturday in an interview.

Mr. Tourtelot said Simpson, "must give the deposition and he must appear and testify in court. He has no options."

A similar lawsuit has been filed by the family of Simpson's ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson, who was slain with Goldman on June 12, 1994.

No one answered the telephone Saturday at the office of Simpson attorney Johnnie Cochran.

A poll in the upcoming issue of Newsweek magazine showed that 67 per cent of whites and 52 per cent of blacks believe Simpson's trial increased racial tension without offering any hope of a solution.

Sixty-five per cent of whites and 48 per cent of blacks said they believed race was at least somewhat important in the speedy verdict reached by the jury. Jurors deliberated less than four hours before announcing they found Simpson innocent.

The poll, in the magazine's Oct. 16 issue, also found that 80 per cent of blacks and 50 per cent of whites questioned think the jury was fair and impartial, although only 32 per cent of the whites agreed with the verdict, compared with 85 per cent of blacks.

The telephone survey by Princeton Survey Research interviewed 760 adults during Oct. 4-6. The margin of error for questions based on the total sample is plus or minus four percentage points.

Participants in the case, meanwhile, continue to explore cash opportunities. Simpson juror Brenda Moran is writing a book, which will be released in the near future, her attorney, Robert Ball, said Friday on CNN's Larry King Live.

Three other jurors have retained attorney Steve Lerman, who represented police beating victim Rodney King, in a search for commercial deals.



## Jordan Times

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## Media in the balance

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS is one of the main pillars of pluralistic democracy and must be jealously guarded. This means that constraints on the exercise of this freedom must be applied in the most judicious manner so as not to jeopardise the democratic process and its underpinnings. As we look around and learn from well-established democracies we observe that seldom, if at all, do news reporters or columnists get thrown into jail for writing or publishing even false information. Laws on defamation and libel are the usual legal tools to bring to justice people who abuse their freedom to disseminate news, views and analysis. These laws serve as the main channel for would-be victims who can seek reparation or compensation from journalists or writers found guilty in a court of law.

Admittedly there are many countries with fledgling democracies which apply more restrictive rules on the exercise of freedom of the press for fear that false or secret information, especially on matters that affect or relate to national security and stability, could undermine their systems. In this context it is understandable that the priorities of states, which are continuously threatened by external or internal forces, are quite different from those which are more endowed with stability and security. Likewise there might be a certain need to curtail news reports, which can inflame public opinion with malice or distort basic policies with a deliberate intent to cause harm to the country. Members of the mass media in such countries carry a heavier burden than their counterparts and colleagues in other nations because they must, always be careful, even conservative, in handling what might be considered "sensitive" news. Under such circumstances the onus of proof of innocence tends to rest with journalists themselves, putting them, in the process, in a disadvantageous position.

In some countries, including ours, the public prosecutor may be vested with the right to detain a journalist if there is a prime facie case against him or her for publishing reports that are malicious, grossly wrong or harmful to state security and stability. Under Jordanian law, for example, such violations are deemed serious crimes that warrant the most severe treatment. This right, however, can still be exercised with discretion with each situation examined on its own merits. When there is no risk that the accused would try to escape trial or abuse his freedom to move around, detention can and should be avoided. When in doubt, bail may be posted by the accused especially when there are sufficient safeguards and reasonable grounds to believe that he would not jump his bail.

Jordan, in any case, also has to reckon with its international treaty obligations and see where our current laws and practices may run counter to them. It is always prudent to double check with our legal experts on how we may interpret our legislation without running the risk of contravening treaties to which we are party. This is where the discretion of our judicial authorities can and must be exercised in a manner consistent with our international obligations.

We are naturally against detaining members of the media for violating articles of the press and publications and other laws unless a court of law has examined the complaint against them and made a determination on their guilt. It is true that journalists are not above the law, nor should they be treated as a class different from others, nor must they be regarded as a distinguished group. But let us remember that in a country aspiring to be democratic a violation of the laws and freedoms of the press is not considered among the most serious criminal violations that would warrant detention without bail. Secondly, normative punishment under the various human rights treaties for those who violate legislations on freedom of the press is mainly monetary which the convicted person would have to pay as a form of reparation. Thirdly, there is not a single country in need of making democracy a way of life for itself that can afford to incur the wrath of, or send the wrong signal to, democratic forces which are keen to see our experience work.

On the other hand, the journalists themselves have to abide by the law of the land, no matter how restrictive it is, and be governed by the ethics of the profession. Irreparable damage can ensue at times, to both the journalists themselves and the people and the cause they are supposed to serve, when the responsibility to be fair, accurate and objective is shirked by reporters and editors.

Balance is essential, and we have to strive to achieve it. But while it will take us some time to reach that goal, we have to know that there is but one way to our destination. It is only through democratic rules and respecting the law that we can succeed — together.

## Human Rights File

# 'Let's target land mines and blinding laser weapons'

By Dr. Waleed M. Sadi

The Review Conference of the 1980 U.N. Weapons Convention is in its third and final week and has yet to receive appropriate interest or concern from the Arab World. The on-going conference, held in Vienna, is deliberating the prohibition or restriction of the use of certain conventional weapons deemed excessively injurious or as having indiscriminate effects, such as land mines and blinding laser guns. The magnitude of the crisis for the Middle East may be best appreciated through the shocking revelation that out of the 100 million anti-personnel mines littering the globe, about 30 million are scattered on our own soil, in our own backyards.

Regarding blinding military laser guns, their development and deployment is also on the increase worldwide, including, of course, throughout the Middle East where regional wars and internal armed conflict have been abundant.

On a global level, the size of the land mine challenge is reflected most in the appalling number of anti-personnel mines the world has manufactured over the past quarter-century alone. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) — the guardian of all Geneva Conventions and the prime promoter of international humanitarian law even before WWI — estimates that 250 million land mines, including 200 million anti-personnel mines, have been manufactured in the last 25 years, by no less than 50 countries.

Peculiar to this type of conventional weapon is its inherent nature of taking a heavy toll on human life, mostly civilian, which continues even after the cessation of hostilities. This is because mines lie planted in areas accessible to civilians, such as areas for cultivation and economic development. Mines have proven almost impossible to detect, and not only by people like you or me, but also by military personnel who planted them in the first place. No wonder about 800 mostly civilian lives are claimed every month by land mines. Just to add insult to

injury, the international community still produces annually about 10 million of these terrible weapons.

Another reason for the continued carnage is attributed to the high price of mine-clearing, estimated by some experts to cost \$300-500 per mine, while manufacturing such mines is a snap at about \$20 each. We can only begin to imagine this catastrophic side of the equation when developing countries are forced, through sheer economic constraints, to leave land mines, buried during regional or domestic armed conflicts, in unmarked places to be detected only when a child, woman or farmer step on one, triggering a bloody explosion.

Yet the international community is still reluctant to take affirmative action against such weapons even at this late hour. To date, there are international humanitarian principles calling for clear distinction between civilians and combatants in armed conflict. In addition there are specific treaties such as the 1980 UN Weapons Convention and its Protocol II that purports to control the use of mines, booby-traps and similar devices. But the shortcomings of existing customary and international laws are proven by the failure to contain the problem and reverse its tide. Awareness and recognition are on the increase that the current regime governing the use of such weapons is simply not working and all the while more people are losing their lives or limbs because legislation is neither sufficient nor commensurate with the size and dimension of the crisis.

Besides, not many states have signed and ratified the modest 1980 Convention. Only 50 governments chose to become parties to the 1980 convention, demonstrating the indifference of so many countries, including Arab and developing countries which suffer the most from land mines in both human and economic terms. The convening of the Review Conference of the 1980 UN Weapons Convention also provides an occasion to invite Jordan to adhere to it, as I am sure it is sheer oversight on our part

not to have become party to it until now.

And since the limited Convention is only applicable to "international" armed conflicts, the developing countries including of course the Arab World will continue to suffer because they provide the main theatre for internal armed conflicts that are bloody and vicious.

Unfortunately, the recommendation of the Group of Experts assembled for the purpose of proposing more forceful measures against mines falls short of the desired objective because it adopts the view that additional restrictions and safeguards would do the necessary job for humanity. This contrasts with the view of the ICRC and an increasing number of governments that consider there is but one solution to the endemic carnage and slaughter of people: the total prohibition of the manufacture of land mines, as opposed to the mere introduction of cosmetic changes to existing international humanitarian law.

Perhaps it is too late to change the course of the Review Conference on this point. But it is never too late to start lobbying for a more humane and enlightened posture that insists on a complete ban on the use and manufacture of land mines as a real and effective panacea to the current carnage of innocent people.

Fortunately though, the Group of Experts did recommend the total prohibition of the use and manufacture of blinding laser weapons. This is a great and timely success, in view of the growing technology of blinding laser guns and their availability not only to states across the board, but also to factions or groups. In the meantime, Israel is known to have a crash military programme to develop this kind of weapon. No doubt other Middle Eastern states would respond likewise, sooner rather than later, unless the problem is nipped in the bud in this part of the world.

We have every hope that the Review Conference will not fail humanity at least in this area. Meanwhile the vigil against the use and manufacture of land mines must continue unabated until we attain our ultimate objective.

# Why Russia opposes NATO expansion

By G. H. Jansen

ONE ELEMENT noticeably absent from Russia's campaign against the eastward expansion of NATO is that Moscow has not, so far, given reasons for its opposition. But a reason given to Indian correspondents by a Russian official in 1961, soon after the Belgrade non-aligned summit conference, may perhaps explain why at present Russia, though firmly opposed to the external expansion of NATO, does not say why.

The half-dozen Indian correspondents in Belgrade for the summit in September '61 were very pleasantly surprised when they were told that they were invited by the Soviet Union to accompany the Indian prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, to Moscow for talks between Nehru and Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev.

In Moscow the visit became more interesting for the journalists because the Russian officer accompanying the group was the press attaché at the Soviet embassy in New Delhi and already knew some of the journalists. The single most enjoyable item on the usual dull official programme of speeches and visits to Soviet show-pieces was a performance at the Bolshoi theatre of the well-known ballet "Romeo and Juliet" and not, this time, danced to the all-too-well known music of Tchaikovsky, but to a newer composition by the Russian composer Prokofiev. And a splendid performance it was during which the prime minister, though a well known lover of Western classical music, seemed notably silent and withdrawn.

After we returned from the Bolshoi performance to the Sovetskaya Hotel, we journalists and the Russian officer settled down to discuss the state of the world over the inevitable bottle of vodka. There was one question that especially interested this journalist and a news agency colleague. Whether it was the lateness of the hour or the affect of the vodka, the officer "opened up" and spoke frankly. And so when we pestered him with this question, "Why is Russia, a Great Power, stronger than ever after its victory in World War II, so afraid of a wrecked and divided Germany that it would do everything it could to stop Germany being put back on its feet by the West?"

The Russian said, "We don't usually discuss this, but I will tell you why. The broad road we took this evening from this hotel straight into Red Square and the Bolshoi, had huge holes in it at the end of the war. Not unrepaired pot

holes and not bomb craters, but shell holes made by German artillery from the outskirts of the city. That was proof of how far the Germans reached. And that German army came here all the way from the Rhine (a pardonable exaggeration — the Elbe would have been more accurate) and the German soldiers fought their way here, all the way across Poland and more than half of European Russia. And it took a Russian winter and, of course, the Red Army to stop them just in time.

"The Germans are a terrible and a formidable people. They can never be trusted and so must be kept weak by being divided and disarmed."

Recall those minatory words now that Germany is reunited and rearmed and is half-in and half-out of NATO — the Russian nightmare has come true.

Germany is by far the strongest state in the Western European Union and NATO (except for the U.S.), so for a suspicious, nationalist Russia, no longer a really great power, NATO is quite simply Germany.

Thus, the seemingly innocent eastwards expansion of NATO and the attempts by the former Soviet satellites and

**'For a suspicious nationalist Russia, no longer a great power, NATO is quite simply Germany'**

republics, especially Poland and the three Baltic states and even Belarus, to connect up with NATO are, for Russians, all preludes to a possible repetition of Napoleon and Hitler knocking on the doors of Moscow.

The words of the Russian officer were an impressive presentation of the Russian position. They made sense and they still do. The Western advocates of NATO's eastward expansion, which the Russians have most recently called "a challenge," will have to overcome a deep-seated Russian



complex with roots dating back almost two centuries, to 1810.

It was only many years later that we discovered why on that September evening in 1961 Nehru had seemed so withdrawn from the performance at the Bolshoi. He had gone to Moscow on his own initiative, not on a Russian invitation, later extended pro forma, to talk to Khrushchev and ask him, since Russia was an ally of China in the Moscow-Beijing axis, to urge restraint on the Chinese who were pushing south against the Sino-Indian frontier.

And that day Khrushchev had told the Indian prime minister that the Moscow-Beijing axis was no more, because the Russian and Chinese communist parties had fundamental ideological differences. The Chinese had told the Russians, who were by then anti-Stalinist, that they, the Chinese, would continue along the Stalinist path, which they still do.

Therefore, Moscow had no restraining influence on Beijing and India and China were on their own in an eye-ball to eye-ball confrontation.

Among other things this meant that Nehru had to drop his sentimental "India-China brothers" policy which, unfortunately, he did not do quickly enough and the two countries soon went to war.

If the Russians keep silent on why they do not want a German-dominated NATO on their western borders it is because they can hardly admit that their policy today is moved by old, atavistic fears, which are no longer realistic.

## LETTERS

### Where is the comradery

To the Editor:

AS A FORMER journalist, my displeasure with a system that allows the detention of a journalist for his writings before a trial declares him guilty is only superseded by my displeasure with a journalistic community that allows one of its own to be jailed without sounding a peep of protest.

Why are Jordanian journalists so preoccupied with arguing whether Amman's Al-Hayat correspondent, Mr. Salameh Nematt, was right or wrong in publishing his article on a government investigation of alleged bribe-taking by Jordanian journalists and officials? That is a matter for the courts to decide. What they should be voicing instead is opposition to this detention of their colleague.

I find it embarrassing that international organisations such as the Paris-based Reporters Without Frontiers are questioning the human rights and press freedom implications of Mr. Nematt's detention, while his own colleagues, who surely have much more at stake, are either attacking him in the local press or, at best, keeping silent on the issue.

Jordanian journalists often complain about the restrictive nature of the 1993 Press and Publication Law. But why do these people expect the government to protect and expand their rights when they themselves are too timid to take a stand and rally around a colleague whose situation they may very likely face one day?

Readers may wonder why I am writing this letter anonymously. It is not due to fear of voicing a seemingly unpopular opinion, but rather because my present employment does not allow me the freedom to express personal opinions in the press. Still, my frustration at the sad state of journalism in Jordan is such that I find writing an unsigned letter slightly better than not writing one at all.

Name withheld upon request

### The press we want

To the Editor:

AS A concerned Jordanian, I was interested to see that a journalist for a London-based Arabic newspaper had been arrested and jailed pending trial in connection with an allegedly defamatory article he had written. I am not going to discuss this particular case as it is now before the courts, nor shall I repeat the allegations made in the article in question because I do not want to give them further publicity. Nevertheless there is a much wider, general issue at stake which needs to be urgently debated in Jordan if we are to successfully fulfill the high aims for our country set by His Majesty King Hussein.

It is my firm belief that the Press and Publications Law allows the state prosecutor to put on trial any journalist for what he or she may have written, in a manner that contradicts all international norms of respect for freedom of the press. In a democracy it is the role and responsibility of the press to challenge falsehoods and seek out the truth. Such battles should be fought through public debate not through law courts. Of course any time an individual is falsely accused of something, he or she has the right to bring a libel action against the perpetrator and seek damages. But do we really need the prosecutor to bring a court case on behalf of the entire country? By doing so, doesn't he simply attract attention and importance to the very allegations that are to be challenged? Surely it makes more sense to allow the press to do its job and debunk any claims that insult the intelligence and honour of the country. Ultimately we must have faith that ordinary Jordanians are perfectly capable of judging the issues before them. Yet they are hampered from using that judgement if the press is constrained by regulations and controls that put journalists in fear of imprisonment merely for doing their jobs. People cannot exercise responsible choices, as democracy requires them to do, if they are not exposed to a lively and honest political debate. In other words there simply can be no democracy without a free and vigorous press.

If the standards of our Press and Publications Law were

applied in a respected and ancient democracy such as Britain, then half of that country's population might be paying fines or serving prison sentences and world-class newspapers such as *The Times*, *The Guardian* or *The Economist* would have long ago closed down or simply become colourless vehicles for petty gossip and marriage announcements. Is that the kind of country we want Jordan to be? Is that the kind of press we want to have?

I am sure that many journalists and politicians have been offended by allegations made against them in the past. But isn't it their job to use their respected position in society to debate and question all issues that affect them and society at large? I doubt that there are many professional journalists in Jordan who feel they need the state to protect them against every incoherent writer with an axe to grind, but if any journalist is incapable of defending him or herself on the pages of a newspaper then perhaps he or she should seek a different vocation. Finally, I think it is clear for all to see that continued over-involvement of the state in regulating the press is delaying the process of democratisation championed by His Majesty King Hussein. The mere possibility of prosecution has surely dissuaded many from openly expressing their views on even some rather innocuous subjects.

Finally let me say that I believe in Jordan and I believe that His Majesty King Hussein's endeavours have lifted our country to a position of international respect far outweighing our size and resources. It is our duty, therefore, to our King and country to be part of a responsible, constructive and equal political debate without having to look over our shoulders. Restraints on the freedom of the press severely damage Jordan's image in the world. They risk casting a shadow over His Majesty's great achievements on the national and the world stage. If we allow that to happen then we will all be worse off. It is time to reexamine the Press and Publications Law in the name of democracy, of peace and the farsighted vision of Jordan set out by His Majesty King Hussein.

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By James Fenton

# 'Statesman' staggers from crisis to crisis

## While political magazines of the right thrive, why is the voice of the left so often in turmoil?

IT IS odd, when you think about it, that while the Labour Party is in better shape than ever, and while everything seems to bode well for its prospects in the next election, there is still no decent broad-based magazine for people on the left to read. It's not, after all, a question of money. In the general scale of things, a weekly political magazine should not be that hard either to found or to keep going.

One is not envisaging that elusive beast, the daily paper which would have to the Labour Party the same intimate relationship as the Telegraph has to the Tories. One is talking about a political and cultural weekly that would have to new Labour the same relationship as ... as the New Statesman had to old Labour. In fact, one is talking about the New Statesman.

Recently there was a deal of talk in the press about an attempt by Tony Blair's kitchen cabinet to get control of the moribund New Statesman, kick out its editor and replace him with a Blair-controlled stooge. Chief culprit in this story was a PR

man called Brian Basham, who was said to be in the Blair loop. But Mr. Basham tells me this is complete nonsense. He has only met Mr. Blair once in his lifetime, and while he does indeed know several Labour figures (the Kinnocks, for instance) he is no way linked to any Blairite plot.

I also phoned the effective owner of the New Statesman, Philip Jeffrey, and asked him whether he thought Mr. Basham was a Blairite Trojan horse, intent on ensuring a loyal, stooge-like magazine. Mr. Jeffrey said, in the course of a quite long conversation, that he thought Mr. Blair had no interest in the New Statesman at all: he said that he would like to improve the Statesman to such an extent that Mr. Blair would sit up and take notice of it. He also

said that if Mr. Blair had wanted a Trojan horse on the New Statesman, then the obvious candidate would be himself, Mr. Jeffrey (a loyal member of Amersham Labour Party), but he had had no approaches of any kind from the Blair camp. In fact, he had had precious little connection at all with the magazine either.

So this idea that Steve Platt, the magazine's editor, was being forced to resign as part of a general attempt to stifle opposition to new Labour appears to emanate from Mr. Platt's circle. It appears to be a spin — a genuine example of a spin — from spin doctors as yet unidentified.

Mr. Platt was indeed being asked to resign, had in fact agreed to resign, and the finance committee of the magazine met last Tuesday

to draft a press release to say that he had resigned. The reason for this resignation was that a refinancing scheme was being developed, and that if the magazine was to be refinanced the new investors would expect there to be a new editor. They would expect someone who, the phrase goes, was better box office.

Yesterday, there was to have been a press conference at Brighton, announcing the new deal for the poor old Staggers and Niggers. Instead Mr. Platt, having been persuaded, or having persuaded himself, that he was being hounded by unsavoury elements from Islington, decided not to resign. Mr. Jeffrey learnt that the staff was about to pass a vote of no confidence in the board and decided to demand the resignation of

the entire board. Christopher Price, the chairman, resigned, but Mr. Basham has yet to do so. The other members have apparently refused to go. But, of course, the refinancing deal appears for the moment to be finished.

I say "for the moment" because Mr. Jeffrey, who, as I reported above, was sweetness itself to me and in all his references to Mr. Blair, gave this paper's correspondent a rather different impression last Friday saying: "What has happened today is not good news for Tony Blair." Apparently Mr. Jeffrey is subject to mood-swings. I got his sweetest side. He paid tribute to the enormous effort and sacrifices made by the board members whom he had just instructed to resign.

The situation, as far as I

can see, is that Mr. Jeffrey, as is his right, has appointed himself chairman of the board, and brought in the accountant Peter Jones to look at the books and to decide whether or not to close the magazine down. Mr. Jones has actually been looking at these books, to the best of my knowledge, of the past two decades. Perhaps he will come up with something this time. Perhaps not. Meanwhile, he has the defiantly unsigned former members of the board to deal with.

The boards of the New Statesman have a not very happy history. In 1978, when I was one of the candidates for editorship, the paper owned its building in Lincoln's Inn Fields, had money in the bank and made, as a company, an operating profit. All the can-

didates who made proposals within the fairly cautious old parameters were turned down in favour of an expansionist scheme intended to turn the Statesman into a news magazine on the lines of, say, Der Spiegel. The scheme was batty, went off at half-cock and the capital was soon used up.

In 1990 the magazine faced bankruptcy but was saved in part by the investments made by two staff members. In one week, in January 1992, the prime minister and his caterer sued the magazine and its distributors for libel, the distributors settled their side and under the terms of their contract passed on to the magazine the bill for 250,000 sterling pounds about which it could do nothing. (The magazine's own part in the legal action was settled on

much more modest terms.) When it started going under again in 1993, there was interest from the quarter of one Derek Coombs, a former Tory MP, who is now the biggest single shareholder in Prospect, the new political magazine that was launched last week. The board split between supporters of Mr. Coombs, who seemed OK except for having a Tory, and Mr. Jeffrey, who was eccentric but was at least Labour. Mr. Jeffrey was chosen by one vote, and has since (with his wife) put the best part of 600,000 pounds into the company. He owns 49 per cent, Mr. Platt owns 1.5 per cent. Hence the block vote.

If Mr. Jeffrey intends to put the paper in the hands of the receivers, he may well thereby end up delivering it into the hands of his old rival for ownership, Mr. Coombs. If Mr. Platt digs in, in the name of resistance against Stalinist-Blairite stifling of free speech, he may find his position overrun by an old Tory. Could someone make either of these fine individuals see sense?

The above article is reprinted from The Independent

### Calls for parliament reforms

(Continued from page 12)

cabinet member and not on the cabinet as a whole.

Jan Westerbroek, deputy secretary general of the group of the European Peoples Party at the European Parliament, said democracy was essential for stability and security for the country and its neighbours as well.

"King Hussein is delegating part of his responsibilities and it is a question of time and will on both sides for democracy to flourish," he said.

"Parliament has to show it is responsible and gradually, Jordan will rise to the level of European countries," he added.

Discussions continue today with a special emphasis on the prospects of developing the Jordanian Parliament's performance. The three-day seminar was organised by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in cooperation with Al Urdan Al Jadid Research Centre.

### Right media approach urged

(Continued from page 12)

500 personalities and 900 private sector participants are expected to attend the meetings, which will be covered by approximately 500 journalists.

At least 250 to 300 Jordanian delegates will take part in the conference, which will focus attention on the economic climate and investments in local and regional schemes, he said.

Urging the media to work in unison with the official information services to relay

a bright image about the Kingdom, Mr. Abdul-Rahman said that the Ministry of Information had created a main press office at the Sports City complete with all means of communication to extend full coverage of the event directly from the centre.

He said that at least 400 foreign journalists will cover the conferences during which press conferences and briefings will be held to keep the media posted about developments in the gathering.

### European giants expected

(Continued from page 12)

Superhighway and telecommunications and tourism.

"More crucial than what will be said during the official sessions will be what happens away from the spotlights, the exchange of business cards and the chats in the lobbies of the hotels," Mrs. Ashkar said.

"Though business is not something one can make 'on the spot', but something that takes a long process, the interest of the French Businessmen Association and of European companies in the Amman summit is genuine," Mr. Ponsot said.

domestic investments, and the efforts exerted by Parliament and the government to open the economy to trade are going to give Jordan "the economic development that is essential to support peace."

Dr. Tougan also pointed that the new Investment Law and Jordan's application for membership in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) were necessary steps ahead of the MENA summit.

Reflecting the climate of great expectations in Italy of the summit on a political, economic and public opinion level, will be the Italian government delegation which will be headed by Susanna Agnelli, minister of foreign affairs, and sister of Giovanni Agnelli, president of Ferrari, Fiat and Lancia.

The official EU delegation to the MENA economic summit will be headed by Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, accompanied by his Minister of Foreign Affairs Javier Solana. The EU is also a member of the summit's steering committee, together with the "four core" parties (Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Palestine), and Japan, Morocco, Russia, Tunisia and the U.S.

Mr. Bertini added that the new Investment Law, which stipulates equal treatment for foreign and

### Bosnia ceasefire still on track

(Continued from page 1)

whether Mr. Perry had submitted any new plans on Russian troops joining the force.

"Yes, they introduced (them)," Mr. Grachev replied as he sat for a second session of talks. "It's going to be a tough task."

NATO is planning to pour up to 60,000 troops into Bosnia once an accord is signed.

The United States is expected to provide the backbone of the force.

Both Russia and NATO want Moscow to send troops as well. But Russia will not place its soldiers under NATO command and Western powers say they will not accept any "dual key" command that would dilute NATO's military control.

The following leader is reprinted from Sept. 30 issue of the Economist.

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL would be amazed. His little invention of 1876 has already changed beyond all imagining the social and economic lives of those who use it. The telephone has brought companionship, employment and information to millions. It is now poised to do far more. Over the next few years, the price of making a long-distance or international call in and between some countries will fall to the point where it costs little more to telephone from Hollywood to Glasgow than to nearby Beverly Hills. At the same time, telephone companies will begin to switch the basis of charging their customers from the length of time for which they talk to a flat subscription. Within a decade or two, most ordinary telephone conversations will cost nothing extra, whatever their duration or distance. As a result, one of the most important limits imposed by geography on human activities will eventually vanish.

The demise of distance as the key to the cost of communicating may well prove the most significant economic force shaping the next half century. This has been predicted before; the difference now is that it is actually starting to happen. Revolutionary as the change in pricing will be, its impact will be magnified by two other earth-moving changes. One is a huge increase in the capacity and the portability of the telephone. New investments, by telephone and cable companies, are already expanding bandwidth — the capacity to transmit information. You want to play video games with your friend

across the country? You want to organise a press conference to allow journalists a continent away to question the chairman of AT&T? Those possibilities exist for the few. Soon, they and thousands of other ingenious concepts will be here for the many. Telephones have also acquired another, even more useful characteristic: mobility. The machine that sits on a table in the hall and rings just as you get into the shower is being overtaken by a ubiquitously portable gadget that can always reach its owner at one number, anywhere.

The second earth-mover will be the wiring of the world. Today, 5.6 billion people make do with a mere 600m telephones. In the developing world, telephone "density" is a mere one-tenth that of the rich world. But developing countries are forging ahead with privatisation: More than a dozen have done so in the past couple of years, with more planned in Ghana and Guinea, Panama and Poland, and other yet more disparate countries. Some are allowing cellular-telephone operators to step in to fill the gaps in their markets that fixed-wire networks cannot plug fast enough. China alone has hopes of adding the equivalent of an entire Baby Bell's worth of lines each year.

For the big telephone operators, fearful of a collapse in the cost of international calls — their most profitable business — the prospect of new markets is a relief. But for their customers, the future is joyously unpredictable. New technologies go through many refinements before their potential is fully exploited. The telephone is hardly new, but the novelty lies in the effect such costless communication has on two other commonplace machines. As the transmission of infor-

mation is increasingly digitised, the boundaries between the telephone, the television and the computer are blurring. Put the three together and all sorts of unpredictable new products and services start to evolve from the fun of television, the brain and memory of the computer, and the two-or-more-way human contact of the telephone.

Still trying to connect you

How fast this new world arrives will depend on governments. Some seem determined to fight against opening their markets to foreign investment and allowing international telephone services to become as tradable as telephones themselves. While they struggle against the inevitable, other countries will benefit. The key change, in the words of Al Gore, America's vice-president, will be that "Time zones, not cost, will become the biggest barrier to keeping in touch." It will become possible to site any screen-based activity anywhere; and to tap into all sorts of information and advice from crop prices to university courses to medical help — from anywhere in the world.

As a result, decisions about location will be transformed and regional policy will at last become meaningful. Many services will become internationally tradable — and indeed easier to ship from one country to another than goods are today. Countries thousands of miles apart will be able to offer services, from providing an insurance quote to monitoring a security camera, that have up to now required proximity.

The further a country or a town is from the main centres of economic activity, the more it will gain as a result. In developing coun-

tries, telephone tariffs are currently highest and international charges most outrageously adrift from costs. They, and the poorest, most distant regions of the rich countries, will gain most of all when this changes. They will be able to keep skilled and educated workers, who might otherwise have migrated to where the jobs paid best. But some rich-world white-collar workers, who up to now have thought themselves insulated from the competitive pressures that have affected manufacturing, will find their jobs and wages at risk.

Proximity will still have some value: Hollywood's breakfasting and the City of London's lunching will never be replicated over a wire. But cities, which have so dominated development for the past two centuries, will lose some of their clout: no longer will it necessarily be the case, as it is now, that their productivity (and therefore their wealth) is vastly greater than that of the surrounding countryside. In poor countries, whose cities threaten to be the behemoths of the next century, telecommunications will make it possible to provide in rural areas many of the services and jobs, and much of the access to information and entertainment, which have up to now been available only by moving to the bright lights.

For governments and big companies, the telecoms revolution will be unsettling, because it will put more power into the homes and on to the desks of ordinary people. Voters and customers alike will find it easier to make comparisons, acquire information, by-pass gatekeepers, cross borders. The telephone is a seductive little instrument; but it will create a better-informed, more prosperous life for millions of people.

### Women refuse to leave jail

(Continued from page 1)

big gaps between the two sides," said a Palestinian official. Major General Ziad Al Atrash. "What we are looking for is an overall redeployment timetable."

Mr. Peres said the Israeli army would pull out of four villages in the West Bank within 20 days. The operation was to start in Salfit, in the Nablus area, as early as Tuesday, a military spokesman said.

Israel has promised to free 2,300 of the prisoners in three stages. The first stage was supposed to be "on the signing" of the agreement, and the second prior to Palestinian general elections.

Elections are expected to be held either in January or

April, following the Israeli troop withdrawal and deployment of Palestinian police. Israeli troops are supposed to be out of six cities in the West Bank by the end of the year, and out of most of the seventh — Hebron — in March. The situation in Hebron is complicated by the presence of 450 fiercely ideological Jewish settlers living in the middle of the town's 120,000 Palestinian residents.

The third stage of a prisoner release is supposed to take place during negotiations on the final status of the Palestinian territories, which are supposed to begin by next May.

### Bomb explodes at rail track

(Continued from page 1)

Blanche bombing, a statement signed by Algeria's Armed Islamic Group (GIA) claiming responsibility for bomb attacks against French interests since 1994 was faxed to a western news agency in Cairo.

In the typed statement, signed by Abu Abdul Rahman Amin, the GIA "Emir," the group vowed to continue its strikes in revenge for Paris' backing of the Algerian government "until Islam conquers France."

The authenticity of the statement, dated Sept. 23, could not be confirmed.

The group said it would continue the attacks not only to punish France for interfering in Algeria's domestic affairs but also because President Jacques Chirac had ignored its call to convert to Islam. A 3½-year-old insurgency in Algeria has left more than 30,000 people dead.

The group said it would continue the attacks not only to punish France for interfering in Algeria's domestic affairs but also because President Jacques Chirac had ignored its call to convert to Islam. A 3½-year-old insurgency in Algeria has left more than 30,000 people dead.

### Arafat frees Hamas leader

(Continued from page 1)

day that the security services allowed Hamas officials to travel to Sudan for talks with their leadership abroad. Israel authorised their travel at the request of Mr. Arafat.

In Gaza, Hamas said four officials went abroad to review a dialogue between the

self-rule authority and the Islamic movement, which has carried out several anti-Israeli bombings.

The officials were to consult on whether to halt anti-Israeli attacks in the West Bank after the army has pulled out of Palestinian towns.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Iraq frees Kuwaiti prisoner

BAGHDAD (AFP) — A Kuwaiti has been released by Iraq after serving a two-year jail sentence for entering the country illegally, officials said here Sunday. Majed Sanhil Metaleb Sahar Al Matiri left Baghdad on Sunday escorted by a member of the International Committee of the Red Cross, sources at the organisation said. He was travelling home via the border town of Safwan. In a statement to the official news agency INA, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry said he had been released after serving his sentence. The ministry said Mr. Matiri was "a Kuwaiti civil servant, according to his passport, who entered Iraq illegally via the border with Iran." In addition to the Kuwaiti, 13 Westerners have been jailed for entering Iraq illegally since the end of the Gulf war in February 1991 but all were subsequently released. Kuwait wants Iraq to explain the fate of 605 people missing since Baghdad's occupation of the emirate. Iraq has insisted it is not holding any prisoners of war from the conflict.

#### Saddam elected president of Qatari tribe

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has been elected leader of a tribe in Qatar, official Iraqi newspapers said here on Sunday. The 60,000 members of the Abidli tribe decided to elect him their president after hearing that he was seeking to have his mandate as Iraqi leader renewed in a referendum next Sunday. "After hearing about the referendum, we have elected you (president) of the Abidli tribe. The 60,000 members of the tribe are at your command," the tribal chief wrote in a message to President Saddam. Iraq announced in September that President Saddam, 58, who has ruled the country since 1979, was seeking to have his mandate renewed for another seven years in a referendum.

#### Arafat honours 84,000 Egyptian war victims

CAIRO (AFP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on Sunday honoured 84,000 Egyptian military personnel who have died or been wounded in four wars against Israel since 1948. In an interview with the Egyptian news agency MENA published by newspapers here on Sunday, Mr. Arafat said: "We will not forget that the Egyptian people have sacrificed 84,000 martyrs and wounded since 1948 to defend Palestine." Egyptian forces were involved in the Arab-Israeli wars of 1948, 1956, 1967 and 1973.

#### U.S. beefs up security at Cairo embassy

CAIRO (AFP) — The U.S. embassy in Cairo has placed surveillance cameras on streets in the Egyptian capital, fearing militant attacks after the conviction of Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, a government newspaper said Sunday. The Egyptian government weekly Ruse Al Yousef said the U.S. embassy had installed video cameras and sophis-

ticated surveillance equipment at Tahrir Square and on streets leading to the embassy, located in the heart of Cairo. The paper said they were installed to "detect all suspicious movements." No official could be reached at the embassy, which is closed on Sunday, to confirm the report. The security measures were taken for fear of retaliatory attacks by fundamentalist groups after the conviction last week in New York of the spiritual leader of the armed Egyptian group, Gamaa Islamiyah, the paper said.

#### Militiaman wounded in South Lebanon bomb

MARJAYOUN (AP) — A suspected guerrilla roadside bomb wounded a pro-Israeli militiaman in South Lebanon Sunday, security sources said. The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Israeli forces and their allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen shelled suspected guerrilla hideouts in the area in retaliation. They said the bomb exploded as an SLA patrol drove near the village of Tallousa in the central sector of an Israeli-occupied border zone. No one claimed responsibility for the attack and there was no word from Israel on the incident.

#### Iran police arrest robbers of diplomats' houses

TEHRAN (R) — Iranian police have arrested three armed robbers of Tehran houses used by foreign diplomats, a police chief was quoted on Sunday as saying. "One of the armed robbers, Ali Abed, has confessed to 14 cases of robbery at residences of foreign diplomats," Brigadier Reza Abulfathi, Tehran's chief of police, was quoted as saying by the Akhbar daily newspaper. So far police have arrested three robbers and found 50 million rials (\$16,700 at official exchange rate) worth of gold and audio-visual equipment, he said. Efforts are continuing to capture "a number of other robbers collaborating with these three." Abed's crimes included robbing the residence of the Malaysian embassy's first secretary earlier this year and the home of the Japanese embassy's second secretary in 1993. Brig. Abulfathi said.

#### Lawyer sues Egyptian film about lawyers

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian film stars Yosra and Gamil Ratib appeared in a Cairo court as interested spectators on Sunday in the first hearing of a lawyer's suit against the Adel Imam film "Birds of Darkness." Mahmoud Riyad is suing producer Wahid Hamed and director Sharif Arafat for insulting the legal profession in the film, which shows corruption among lawyers and government officials. Seventy-five lawyers turned up at court in solidarity with the producer. One of them, Mohammad Sabri of the Federation of Arab Lawyers, said the aim of the film was to encourage reform in the profession and in government. Yosra and Ratib have roles in the film but top actor Adel Imam, who plays an opportunistic lawyer, did not show up.



# Palestinians to launch first Islamic bank

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Palestinian investors, buoyed by a landmark peace deal with Israel, are to launch their first Islamic bank after raising more than half of its paid-up capital, its founders said on Sunday.

The Palestinian Islamic Bank (PIB), based in Gaza City, has a paid-up capital of \$10 million and around \$5.5 million have been secured, said Khaled Al Husari, chairman of the Palestinian Islamic Investment Company in Gaza, one of the key shareholders in the new bank.

"The main shareholders will contribute around \$7 million while the rest will be raised through public subscriptions," he told AFP during a visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to seek in-

vestors for the bank.

"Subscriptions will close on Oct. 15 and we expect the capital to be either fully subscribed or over-subscribed. There is a strong demand by Palestinians and investors from the Gulf and other Arab countries."

The bank would start operating in January and within three years, it would open up to 10 branches in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and Jordan. At a later stage, there could be branches in other Arab countries, Mr. Husari said.

PIB is wholly owned by the private sector and has already got approval by Yasser Arafat, who heads the Palestinian National Authority which runs the autonomous areas under the self-rule

agreement with Israel.

Mr. Husari said they were seeking subscription from outside those areas because they wanted to expand the "public investment base" of the project.

"We want as many Palestinian investors as possible. There are many Palestinians here seeking to invest their money," he said "depending on its operations in future, we may increase the capital."

Mr. Husari said PIB, the first Islamic bank in Palestinian history, would invest in three main sectors — industry, agriculture and housing, which he expected to be among the fastest growing sectors in the autonomous areas.

He said he expected strong

demand for the bank's services as it would be the only Islamic institution in the autonomous areas. The bank would operate according to Islamic rules, which prohibit interest as usury and allow banks instead to charge a percentage of the profits.

"We expect the bank to be one of the main financial institutions in the Palestinian areas. Its capital is relatively small but you should not judge a financial institution from its capital," he said.

"You have to take into consideration its investments, deposits by clients, contribution to projects and companies and other factors. Our studies have indicated that business will be in full swing, given expectations of a steady

economic upturn after the end of the Israeli occupation."

Palestinians signed an historic autonomy agreement for the Gaza Strip and Jericho with Israel two years ago. They struck another deal last month to extend self-rule in the West Bank.

Palestinian leaders hope the accord will lead to the creation of their long-sought independent homeland.

The United States and other potential creditors have promised to extend funds to Palestinians to enable them to repair the economy that has been wrecked by nearly 18 years of Israeli occupation. Palestinians say economic revival is essential for the success of the peace agreement.

## Gulf states hopeful on customs union

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Gulf Arab customs chiefs began gathering on Saturday for fresh talks on unifying tariffs on foreign imports as officials said the long-sought customs union was now in sight.

The customs directors from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will try to agree on the final list of products that would be either taxed or exempted under a joint customs mechanism, which is essential for the establishment of the Middle East's first common market.

"GCC states are now at the end of the road towards a customs union. We are hopeful it will materialise next year," a GCC official told AFP from the group's headquarters in the Saudi capital Riyadh.

"With the unification of the tariffs, the establishment of the common Gulf market will not be a problem. It could come automatically."

The official estimates news agency said the customs directors, who begin a four-day meeting in Riyadh on Sunday, would try to classify 312 items, the remaining list

of more than 1,200 products that would be taxed or exempted.

They will present the list to their finance and economy ministers, who will meet at the end of this month to make final proposals for their heads of state at their annual summit talks in Oman next December.

With the unification of tariffs on foreign imports, customs barriers among the six GCC states would automatically collapse as they have already lifted duties on their own products.

But barriers have existed because some members with low tariffs were reexporting products to others with high tariffs, threatening measures to protect their local industries.

GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates — have sought a customs union since early 1980s, in line with their pact that calls for the creation of a common market.

Several GCC delegations have visited the European

Union (EU) to benefit from its experience in facilitating trade across the border.

A GCC customs union would help the 14-year-old Gulf alliance in reaching a free trade agreement with the EU, which has been reluctant to sign such a pact because of the wide gap in tariffs among member states.

After years of negotiations, GCC countries have reached initial agreement on a compromise, setting tariffs at between eight and 10 per cent, midway between the minimum four per cent duty in the UAE and Oman and taxes of more than 20 per cent in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. But some imported products would be exempted while others would be listed as special items.

A common Gulf market would give birth to the biggest oil bloc in history, with current production of around one fifth of the world's total supplies and reserves of 45 per cent of the global crude reserves. Its 1994 trade stood at around \$120 billion and gross domestic product at \$201 billion.

## Kuwait deficit poses risks — Central Bank

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's Central Bank said on Sunday persistent state budget deficits could damage the economy and should be tackled by boosting non-oil revenue.

The bank's annual report for 1994 said public spending growth in the Gulf oil-exporting state was outstripping revenue growth and would lead to the erosion of official reserves.

"The persistence of the general budget deficit bears many current and future risks for major aspects of the national economy," it said.

"As this deficit arises from the growth in public spending at rates inconsistent with levels of public revenues and insensitive to their development, financing this deficit by withdrawals from public reserves will adversely affect the volume of these reserves and the incomes generated by them."

Kuwait projects a deficit of 1.32 billion dinars (\$4.4 billion) for the 1995/96 fiscal year, equivalent to 18 per cent of national wealth as measured by gross domestic product.

The deficit is to be covered from reserves, already halved by large withdrawals that funded a leap in state spending after the 1991 Gulf war.

Analysts say deficits soared when Kuwait paid its share of the war costs, repaired oil-fields and bought arms.

Other economic woes include low prices for Kuwait's single big export, oil, huge private sector bad debt equivalent to 90 per cent of Gross Domestic Product, commercial losses caused by Iraqi occupation and a fall in

population since the conflict.

The Central Bank said the government had made relentless efforts to prepare the way for fundamental reforms that would address the structural nature of the deficit.

These moves would allow for a reduction in the enormous role of the public sector in the economy and create favourable conditions for a more vibrant and active private sector.

Financing the deficit by borrowing would only make

things worse, the bank said, "laying a constant burden on public finance to service such obligations."

The bank said the deficit should be tackled through comprehensive measures including raising non-oil revenue. Oil exports at present account for 90 per cent of state revenue.

This could be done by re-structuring government services such as electricity, water, communications and health care, or by increasing tax and customs revenue.

## Abu Dhabi to cut 1996 spending to offset low oil prices

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Gulf emirate of Abu Dhabi, one of the biggest oil producers in the world, is planning to pursue austerity measures it has introduced to offset weak crude prices. Al Bayan daily reported on Sunday.

The Abu Dhabi finance department has asked government institutions in the emirate to cut expenditure for 1996 although spending was also trimmed in the previous fiscal year, the paper quoted department sources as saying.

"All local departments have been asked to make real and tangible spending cuts in their 1996 budget compared

with their 1995 budget since the circumstances which have prompted such cuts are continuing," it said, in a reference to the decline in crude prices over the past decade.

It said the departments had been told not to include any new jobs in next year's budget and make minimum allocations for new projects.

The paper gave no figures for 1995 spending. Abu Dhabi and the other six emirates in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) do not publish their local budgets.

But Abu Dhabi accounts for more than two thirds of the UAE's annual expenditure given its large oil pro-

duction, estimated at around 1.8 million barrels per day, nearly 80 per cent of the emirates' total output.

In 1994, overall spending by the UAE stood at \$4.4 billion (\$14.82 billion) and revenues at \$3.5 billion (\$10.49 billion), creating a deficit of around \$4.33 billion.

Oil export earnings provide more than 80 per cent of the UAE's income and the decline in their prices has turned a large budget surplus into a deficit, slowed down the economy and slashed the trade surplus.

## Arabs set up first joint financial monitor

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab states have created a joint institution that will give them greater access to the performance of their financial bodies and ensure security for domestic investors, the organisation's sponsor said Sunday.

The World Bank will help in the operation of the company for the Evaluation and Classification of Credit Adequacy, the first of its kind in the Arab World, said the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF).

AMF chairman, Jassim Al Manai, signed the agreement for the new venture in Washington, where he was attending joint meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, it said in a statement sent to AFP.

The contract was signed with the World Bank's International Finance Corporation and the company would begin operation before the end of the year.

"The new company is part of the efforts to activate stock markets in the Arab World and expand the invest-

ment base," it said.

"It will strengthen the official Arab auditing bodies like the central banks and the stock market managements in auditing and supervision of the activities of the financial institutions in the region. This will contribute to protecting the rights of dealers and investors in the Arab markets."

The statement gave no details of the functions of the company or its headquarters but AMF sources said it could be based at the fund.

The creation of the company coincides with reforms in the Arab banking sector following guidelines by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) for banks worldwide to boost their capital adequacy to at least eight per cent to ensure they have enough funds to face any financial crisis.

BIS's Basle Committee, which groups the central banks of major industrial states, has classified Arab nations, except Saudi Arabia, as high-risk countries in lending activity on the grounds that their adequacy is low.

Saudi Arabia was excluded as it was the fifth biggest creditor to the World Bank.

Several Arab states, mainly those in the Gulf, have reported progress in their reforms, which include stronger control of banks and instructions for them to raise their capital. Most of their banks have now exceeded the BIS level of adequacy, the ratio between shareholders equity and assets.

The AMF, the Arab League's main financial organisation, said the new company would help bridge the gap in financial data given by banks and companies.

"Such a process will in turn enable investors to map out their investment strategies, taking into consideration available alternatives on the basis of risks and return from investing in those alternatives," it said.

The AMF, a regional IMF-style institution with a capital of JD 1.3 billion, has also been involved in plans to develop regional stock markets and encourage members without exchanges to open floors.

## Iran interested in Adriatic oil pipeline

TEHRAN (AP) — Iran has said it was interested in using an Adriatic oil pipeline to transport Iranian oil to central and Eastern Europe, Tehran Radio reported.

It quoted Transportation Minister Akbar Torkan as saying that the issue was discussed in a meeting on economic cooperation among Iran, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia that opened here Tuesday.

Mr. Torkan said that once agreement was reached on Iranian use of the pipeline,

Tehran could supply crude oil to the Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary and Slovakia.

The Iranians have been looking for a piped route to Europe for their oil for years, and the issue has been discussed with a number of countries.

The radio said banking issues and the creation of joint companies to invest in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Iran also were among topics discussed at the meeting.



## Peanuts



## Andy Cap



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter, Astrological Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Get your abilities to the attention of bigwigs who can help you to profit greatly by them. Be consistent in carrying through with tasks.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Put those ideas to work which will make you feel you are progressing quietly but surely today. Put your intuition on any new project.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) This is a good day to show your ingenuity at handling practical affairs. Know what it is your mate desires the most and try to please.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Try to reach a better understanding today with one who is rather calculating, so be more objective and less sensitive with close friends.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Be practical in organising your practical affairs today and you will get fine results. Show you are sensitive with fellow associates.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Make the appointments necessary to have the good time you desire tonight and tomorrow. Find a more practical way to push talents.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Do whatever will increase the security you now enjoy at home. If you have any guests in, be certain they are the common sense kind.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Plan how to handle your routines more efficiently now and get more cooperation from partners and fellow associates on a new project.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Use your finest judgement today when handling monetary and other practical affairs and don't take any risks with your reputation.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Use every means at hand to gain your objectives today provide they are ethical. Being with persons you like is wise.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Stop all that daydreaming today and find practical ways to gain your ambitions and become far more affluent in your ability to succeed.

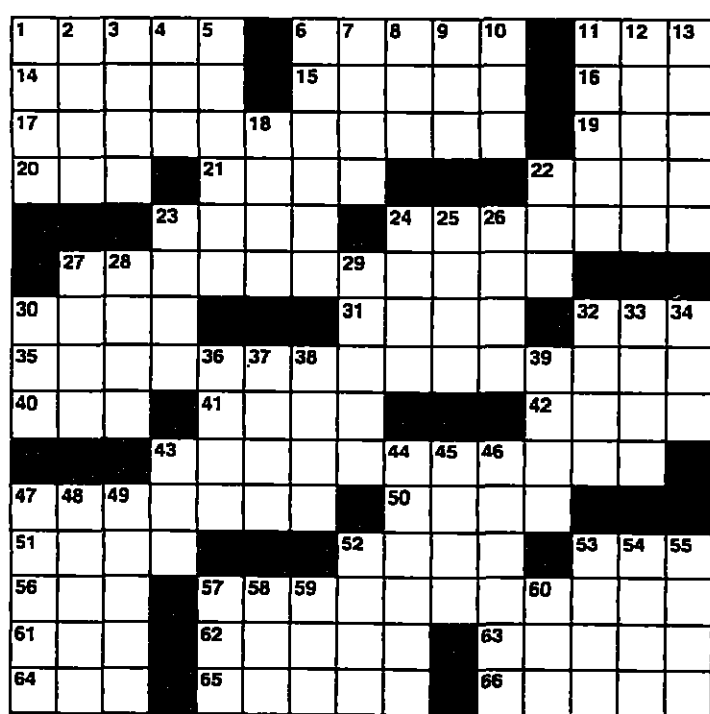
**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) You have a fine friend who can help you to gain some ambition very quickly, so accept. Be happy and more sure of yourself.

Birthingstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline

## THE Daily Crossword by Grace C. Pinkston

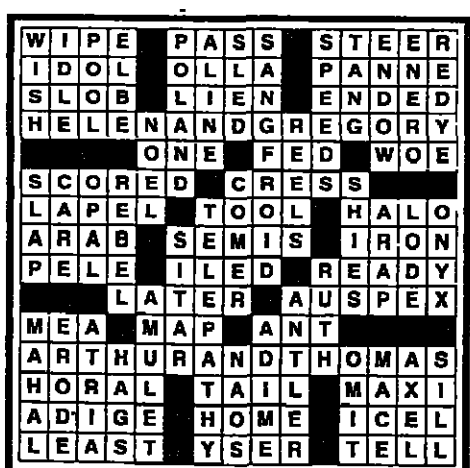
### ACROSS

- 1 Egyptian VIP, once
- 6 Rio de la —
- 11 Chum
- 14 Incomparable
- 15 Western
- 16 "— Maria"
- 17 Oxymoronic vine?
- 19 "The — Divorcee"
- 20 Shoe width
- 21 Suffering
- 22 Mare's — (hoax)
- 23 Tendency
- 24 Actress Holm
- 27 The Bard's oxymoron
- 30 School: abbr.
- 31 Sea creature
- 32 — Paulo
- 35 Oxymoronic adage
- 40 Have being
- 41 Healing plant
- 42 Orchestral instrument
- 43 Oxymoronic crustacean
- 47 Actor Telly
- 50 Moored
- 51 State strongly
- 52 Poet Teasdale
- 53 — de deux
- 56 Obstacle
- 57 Abbott-Costello oxymoron film
- 61 — Tin Tin
- 62 Consummate
- 63 Author Loos
- 64 Brew
- 65 Vessels
- 66 Lowest point



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### Yesterday's puzzle solved:



### DOWN

- 1 Word by Tonto
- 2 "I cannot tell —"
- 3 Fawn over
- 4 Insect
- 5 Indian home: var.
- 6 Fixes firmly
- 7 Grass plot
- 8 Devoured
- 9 Pipe joint
- 10 Garfunkel

- 11 Leaves
- 12 Nautical word
- 13 Philippine island
- 18 Raise a ruckus
- 22 Modern
- 23 Eng. theologian
- 24 Algonquian
- 25 Notable times
- 26 Take it easy
- 27 Emotional aftermath
- 28 Ship's track
- 29 Path prefix
- 30 "I — Camera"
- 32 Use a natatorium
- 33 Unsymmetrical
- 34 Olive —
- 36 Lug
- 37 — mater
- 38 Displays emotion
- 39 Roman poet
- 43 Cookie holder
- 44 Plays for time
- 45 Retain
- 46 U.S. president

- 47 Israeli
- 48 Be of use
- 49 Nemo's creator
- 52 Law: abbr.
- 53 Cleared up a debt
- 54 Against
- 55 Asterisk
- 57 Ad —
- 58 Altar words
- 59 Souchong
- 60 One — million



## U.S. jobless rate steady at 5.6%

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. unemployment rate held steady at 5.6 per cent in September as 121,000 new jobs were created, fresh evidence the economy is rebounding modestly from last spring's slump.

"This signals a slow, gradual bounce back from the very weak conditions of the first half of the year," said Daryl Delano of Cahners Economics, a Newton, Massachusetts, forecasting service.

"The basic message is that the economy has rounded the corner and is back on the forward track," agreed Robert G. Dederick, an economic consultant with the Northern Trust Co. in Chicago.

The Labour Department said Friday the unemployment rate remained at 5.6 per cent for a second straight month. After reaching 5.8 per cent in April, the jobless rate has bounced between 5.6 per cent and 5.7 per cent for the last five months.

The report said that although job growth slowed from the 262,000 pace in August, every sector except manufacturing and government shared in the expansion.

The services industry added 106,000 jobs, retail payrolls grew by 48,000 and builders hired 16,000 new construction workers.

There was little sign of price pressures in the report. It said average hourly earnings increased by four cents to \$11.52 in September after falling two cents a month earlier. That meant average hourly earnings have risen just three per cent over the last year.

Stock and bond prices fell when the markets opened as traders focused on the job growth figures, less than many analysts had expected. But they rallied by midday on reports of stronger-than-expected third-quarter earnings.

Factories, which were particularly crimped by earlier economic weakness, lost 32,000 more jobs in September, boosting losses to 200,000 since last March. But analysts noted that orders have picked up recently, which should pare inventories and spur production and employment.

"Manufacturers are now getting control over merchandise that has been piling up and I'd expect a resumption of manufacturing job growth in future months," Labour Secretary Robert B. Reich predicted.

Government employment dropped by 30,000 after surging by 71,000 in August. The Labour Department said the figures reflected the increasing trend for schools to open in August rather than September.

Analysts said the employment figures and other recent reports were consistent with economic growth of between two per cent and 2.5 per cent at an annual rate in the quarter that ended in September. The economy grew at an anemic 1.3 per cent rate from April through June.

Since the economic appears to be bouncing back, many analysts believe the Federal Reserve will leave interest rates unchanged, after having cut them by a quarter-point in July to stimulate the economy. It was the first decrease in nearly three years.

"I think the Fed can sit back in happy comfort that they have done an excellent job in fine-tuning the economy," said economist Eugene Sherman of M.A. Schapiro and Co. in New York. "They've got the economy where they want it."

More than half the September job growth was in business services, with temporary-help firms accounting for a big increase of 35,000 jobs. Retail employment was boosted by the addition of 20,000 restaurant and bar jobs.

Hiring in the health industry remained strong with a gain of 25,000. Employment at auto dealerships was up 5,000.

But with the end of the summer vacation season, the amusement and recreation industry lost 13,000 jobs. And clothing stores continued to shed workers, reporting a particularly steep 13,000 decline.

As the economy slowed from robust growth in 1994, employment growth has also slowed. Payroll jobs had been rising by an average of 365,000 per month in the final quarter of 1994. But in the just completed July-September quarter, the increase averaged just 130,000 per month.

## Bahrain plans to develop stock exchange

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain is studying a five-year plan to develop its stock exchange, Commerce Minister Ali Saleh Al Saleh said.

Mr. Saleh, speaking on Bahrain Television on Friday night, gave no details of the plan but said it was aimed at developing the official bourse into a regional stock exchange.

Bahrain and Oman, two of the few Arab markets allowing foreign investors, signed an agreement earlier this year linking their bourses, allowing cross-listing of firms.

The move was the first of its kind in the Middle East. Mr. Saleh said liquidity shortage after investors turned to real estate investment and higher interest rates on deposits with banks were to blame for the drop of share prices in Bahrain.

Bahrain's official share index, continuing a decline in the past three weeks, lost 7.37 points in the week ending on Thursday to 1,316.08 points.

But trading volume soared to more than 6.4 million shares worth 1.2 million dinars (\$3.2 million) from 3.7 million shares worth 327,671 dinars (\$869,154) the previous week.

## 30,000 Boeing workers go on strike

SEATTLE (AP) — Unions representing more than 30,000 Boeing Co. production-line workers in three American states went on strike Friday at the world's No. 1 maker of jetliners.

The walkout began at midnight after the Machinists Union voted 3-to-1 to reject a contract offer that would have required them for the first time to pay health insurance premiums.

Workers set up picket lines at Boeing plants in the Seattle area, Wichita, Kansas, and Gresham, Oregon. No talks were scheduled.

"This is about the maddest I've seen people in this union," and I've been with Boeing nearly 30 years," said Bill Johnson, president of Machinists District Lodge 751, with 23,500 Boeing workers.

Boeing, the world's largest manufacturer of commercial jet aircraft and one of the nation's leading exporters, will try to maintain production with supervisors and workers who cross picket lines, said spokesman Paul Binder.

The machinists' strike is the second in six years, the shortest period of labour peace in Boeing's 79-year history. They walked out for 48 days in 1989.

Production has fallen sharply as aircraft orders dried up during the recession of the early 1990s, Boeing's worldwide employment has dropped from a peak of 165,787 in 1989 to 105,230, with about 71,700 in Washington state.

At the Wichita plant, one striker's sign said, "export planes, not jobs" — a reference to the company's use of outside contractors.

The rejected contract offer would have required employee contributions to health insurance premiums, as well as higher deductibles and copayments. It also lacked provisions sought by the union to limit outside contracting.

Boeing's three-year contract offer included a lump-sum payment of 5 per cent of annual pay in 1995, a 3 per cent cash payment in 1996, and a 3 per cent wage increase in 1997. The union wanted wage increases and lump-sum payments in all three years, but had not specified amounts.

Boeing said pay for production workers now averages \$20.37 an hour, and would average \$22.16 at the end of the contract if it has offered, counting cost-of-living increases. The average worker also would receive more than \$3,400 in lump-sum payments.

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JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	841	3683	4,408
BANK OF JORDAN	3530	12879	3,520
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	8500	20296	2,360
JORDAN KUNAT BANK	2410	6699	2,780
JORDAN CULP BANK	80439	95121	1,200
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	4381	16841	3,690
BUSINESS BANK	1000	3485	3,500
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	8650	7958	930
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	2250	3502	1,560
BANKS SECTOR	113821	535343	INDEX NUMBER: 191.71
			CHANGE: -1.397
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	28078	48930	1,650
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	6411	13235	2,070
STATE ESTIMATES INVESTMENT	250	260	1,040
MACHINERY EQUIP. REPAIRING & MAINTENANCE	1000	680	680
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONSUMERS HOTELS	2500	5775	2,320
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	6150	19360	3,160
AMMAN PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	3000	4940	1,320
UNION LAND DEVELOPMENT CORP.	88600	98432	1,110
SERVICES SECTOR	136839	189051	INDEX NUMBER: 127.12
			CHANGE: -0.237
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	3947	14106	3,590
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	1032	3118	3,020
THE ARAB POTASH	2440	12365	5,000
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	2580	24455	9,490
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	339	1107	3,280
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	170	805	4,800
JORDAN CEREAL INDUSTRIES	1000	5980	5,980
JORDAN DAIRY	1000	2500	2,450
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	370	917	2,520
SPINNING & WEAVING	286	499	1,800
ARAB AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	517	5193	7,250
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	900	4680	5,200
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	59200	41477	720
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	11350	15875	1,420
NATIONAL TRADING ENTERPRISES	2100	2515	1,080
INTERNATIONAL PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	100	371	1,780
JORDAN CEMENTAL INDUSTRIES	200	850	4,250
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	850	3570	4,350
JORDAN SULPHUR-CHEMICALS	1050	1427	1,360
JORDAN CEMENT FOR PLASTER & CHEMICALS	4500	10080	2,100
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	3500	11200	3,220
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	6200	12231	1,980
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	5950	12012	1,600
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	11433	16117	1,430
UNION CHEMICAL & VEGETABLE OIL INDUSTRY	1841	3651	1,590
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	124666	205916	INDEX NUMBER: 123.51
			CHANGE: -0.517
GRAND TOTAL	275326	930310	INDEX NUMBER: 158.11
			CHANGE: -0.987
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET: 155730			
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET: 129579			

## Financial Markets

### Weekly Financial Exchange Market Summary (October 2 - October 6, 1995)

The U.S. unit appreciated noticeably against the yen last week, while depreciating marginally against the mark and stabilizing against sterling. It ended the week 0.40 per cent lower against the mark and 0.82 per cent higher against the yen.

The dollar depreciated against European currencies Monday, while appreciating against the yen. Reports indicated that the dollar came under pressure as traders sold it to buy Deutschmarks and Swiss francs. Analysts indicated that despite the selling pressures, most traders were reluctant to close their long dollar positions ahead of the G-7 meeting at the end of the week. Market sentiment towards the U.S. unit was mixed, as analysts were divided on whether the G-7 meeting will result in a communiqué that would prop up the dollar.

The U.S. unit rose against other major currencies Tuesday, as more traders thought that the G-7 countries will stress the importance of a higher dollar at the end of the week. Meanwhile, the dollar lost ground against the Canadian dollar on news that the Quebec referendum will result in Quebec remaining a part of Canada.

The dollar continued its appreciation against sterling Wednesday, but depreciated against the mark and the yen. The upcoming G-7 meeting continued to influence the market. Worries that the G-7 countries will overlook the dollar's recent decline mounted and caused many traders to close their long dollar positions. These worries surface when a Japanese official said that the current exchange rates of the dollar are fairly valued, and as such, any central bank intervention will not result in a higher dollar unless it was accompanied by structural changes in the U.S. economy.

The dollar continued its depreciation Thursday. It declined on worries about the G-7 meeting. The selling pressure on the U.S. unit eased at the end of the week, however, as traders closed their short dollar positions ahead of the G-7 meeting the following day. The dollar also rose on comments by U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin that a higher dollar is in the interest of the United States. Meanwhile, the U.S. labour department released September's employment report showing a rise of 121,000 in non-farm payrolls, compared to a rise of 262,000 the previous month. Unemployment remained at 5.6 per cent. The U.S. unit, thus ended the week at 1.4218 marks, 100.55 yen and at \$1.5830 to sterling.

Currency	Sept. 29, 1995	Oct. 6, 1995
U.S. Dollar	5.78	5.75
Sterling Pound	6.62	6.75
Deutsche Mark	4.10	3.95
Swiss Franc	2.36	2.38
French Franc	6.12	6.28
Japanese Yen	0.50	0.62

Currency	Oct. 2, 1995	Oct. 6, 1995
U.S. Dollar	0.7120	0.7140
Sterling Pound	1.1244	1.1300
Deutsche Mark	0.4999	0.5024
Swiss Franc	0.6209	0.6240
French Franc	0.1423	0.1430
Japanese Yen	0.7081	0.7116
Dutch Guilder	0.4467	0.4489
Swedish Krona	0.0441	0.0443
Italian Lira	0.0441	0.0443
Belgian Franc	0.0441	0.0443

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## Business Daily Bee

### '4,000 engineers to work in Malaysia'

The Jordan Engineers Association (JEA) and a Malaysian delegation which visited Jordan recently agreed to provide 4,000 Jordanian engineers with job opportunities in Malaysia, Director of the JEA's Training and Employment Department Hisham Khreisat said. Mr. Khreisat said about 200 Jordanian engineers already work in Malaysia. He said his department started since last month contacting embassies of Arab Gulf countries in Amman as well as foreign industrial and engineering firms to find jobs for unemployed engineers. He said after contacts with 7,000 firms, the association managed to find job opportunities to 35 engineers. He said he hoped the number to increase as JEA's contacts continue. He noted that there are 1,275 engineers who applied to the department to find them jobs. Some 10,000 Jordanian engineers registered with the JEA work abroad. According to Mr. Khreisat, the number of engineers registered with the association stands at 34,600 and that unemployment among engineers currently stands at 3.5 per cent. (Al Aswaq)

A feasibility study on digging a canal between the Red Sea and the Dead Sea will be completed within six months, informed sources said. The sources said the project will not produce results before 10-15 years. They added that the study is financed by the World Bank. The sources also told Al Aswaq Arabic daily that Jordan and Israel have agreed to build an international airport on the two countries' border, north of Aqaba, and to launch a railroad project linking the Red Sea with the Dead Sea. According to the sources, the airport will be built on the Jordanian side of the border and is expected to serve between 1.5 and 3 million passengers annually. Passengers using the airport will have the choice to either cross into Israel or Jordan once arriving at the airport. The \$500,000 feasibility study on the airport project, expected to be finished by mid 1997, was financed by the U.S. The airport is expected to start operations within five years. The informed sources also said that the railway project will be used in transporting Jordanian and Israeli phosphates to the Aqaba and Eilat ports on the Red Sea. They added that Japan might also finance a Jordanian project worth \$15.10 million to build four bridges over the Jordan River. (Al Aswaq)

\* The National Information Centre is about to compile a wide-range data base which will be used by conferees at the MENA summit. The data base includes figures on development witnessed in various sectors in the Kingdom as well as the history of Jordan. The centre has also prepared information on Jordanian companies, industries, the investment climate in Jordan and the Jordanian projects which will be presented at the summit. The centre will also place computer screens in the summit's various halls to be used by participants. (Al Dustour)

\* The Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) has over the past 30 years carried out about 100 projects which benefited 225,000 people. HUDD director general Yousef Hiyasat said. (Al Dustour)

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## World Gymnastics Championship Ukraine's Podkopyayeva and China's Li take golds

SABAE, Japan (R) — Lilia Podkopyayeva won a closely-contested battle and earned Ukraine's first gold medal Sunday when she clinched the women's all-around title at the World Gymnastics Championships.

In the men's event, Li Xiaoshuang became the first Chinese world all-around champion. His near-flawless display in the team event Friday also helped China to their second successive gold.

But it was a bad day for both defending champions. American Shannon Miller, gunning for an unprecedented third women's world title but hampered by an ankle injury, came in 12th, while Ivan Ivankov of Belarus finished 18th in the men's event. Ivankov has been nursing a shoulder injury.

The women's competition was a thrillingly close tussle, with the lead changing hands twice before dark horse Podkopyayeva snatched the lead in the last two rotations.

The rapidly-improving 17-year-old from Donetsk, second after the team event, chalked up 39.248 points.

"I thought maybe I'd win a medal but I didn't expect to win the overall title. There is no doubt that this is the happiest moment in my life so far," said Podkopyayeva.

Svetlana Chorkina of Russia jumped from behind into second place and the silver with the day's highest score of 9.912 on her final apparatus — the asymmetric bars — taking her to an overall total of 39.130.

"This is the second-best experience in my life. The first was victory in the European Cup this year," said Chorkina, who screamed with joy after seeing her score from the asymmetric bars.

Lavinia Milosovici of Romania, silver medalist in last year's all-around competition, won the bronze with 39.086 points to nudge out her teammate Simona Amanar.

"I'm very happy because being on the podium is like a dream...and it gives me more courage for the (Atlanta) Olympics," said Milosovici.

Pre-event favourite Mo Huilian of China, who convincingly led the field after the team event, started off disastrously when

she fell after dismounting from the beam.

The 9.312 points for the beam dashed her hopes of taking the title and giving China double gold in the all-around competition.

Mo performed brilliantly on the remaining three apparatus to end in sixth place.

Solid performances on all the six men's apparatus helped the 21-year-old Li to win his title by a margin of 0.499 points, pushing Vitaly Scherbo of Belarus, who won six

golds at the Barcelona Olympics, into second place with 57.499 points and 1995 European champion Eugene Chabaev of Russia into third with 57.248 points.

Scherbo managed to snatch the silver medal from Chabaev in the final rotation when he notched up his highest score on the horizontal bar while Chabaev had a poor showing on the rings.

Li, who led after each round and earned the top scores in three apparatus — the pommel horse, vault and parallel bars — said he tried to ignore the widening chasm between his score and those of his competitors.

"Halfway through I

knew I was ahead by a lot of points but there's a Chinese idiom that goes you can only be really happy when everything's over," Li said.

Li is looking forward to next year's Olympics in Atlanta but said he was disappointed he was unable to compete here against Alexei Nemov, a triple gold medalist at this year's European championships.

The Russian failed to qualify for the individual event.

"He's nearly the same level as I am. I hope I can compete with him next year in the all-around competition. Next year's competition will be more exciting," said the stony-faced Li, who did not once smile throughout the medal winners' news conference.

The self-assured Scherbo, who spent most of his time bantering with journalists, revealed the secret of his steady performance during the competition.

"I pray to God for good judging and that's what I got," he said.

## Better future awaiting Jordanian soccer, Prince Abdullah says

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein on Sunday said a more promising future awaits Jordanian soccer.

In a statement at Amman airport where he received Jordan's Olympic soccer team upon its return from Qatar, Prince Abdullah, the president of the Jordan Soccer Federation, said a change towards the better will take place on the Jordanian soccer arena very soon.

Jordan's Olympic team returned from Qatar where it received a 4-2 defeat at the hands of the Qatar Olympic team, thus being eliminated from Asia's Olympic qualifying matches. The defeat was the third for the Kingdom's young squad. Earlier, it was beaten by Qatar 2-1 and by Iraq 4-0. It now has one match to play in Baghdad.

Prince Abdullah, who attended Friday's match in Doha, Qatar, voiced appreciation of efforts exerted

by the team members and their high morale.

He also underlined the importance of early preparations for participation in Arab and international competitions and the need for continued training for national teams, saying members of these teams should be available on full-time basis to represent their countries well in international tournaments.

On Friday, Prince Abdullah blamed the Jordanian media "for destroying the Olympic team's morale" in the heat of competition.

"We in Jordan have to support the national Olympic team with all our capabilities to enable it to improve to a level in which it is able to play with better teams," he said.



ESPERANCE WINS AFRO-ASIAN CUP: Esperance striker Abdelkader Belhassen (L) scores the first goal for his team past Farmers keeper Nippon (R) and defender Suja (C) during their African Asian Cup match in Tunis October 7. Tunisia's Esperance soccer team beat Thai Farmers Bank 3-0 thus winning the Afro-Asian Cup (Reuters photo)

## Longo takes road race for second gold

DUITAMA, Colombia (AP) — Jeannie Longo of France won her second gold medal in three days with a victory in the 85.5-kilometre women's individual race in the World Cycling Championships.

In the men's 177.7-kilometre Saturday, Danny Nelissen of the Netherlands won the gold, finishing the course in 4:52.39 hours.

Daniele Sgnaolin of Italy came in 15 seconds later for the silver, and Pedro Rodriguez of Ecuador won the bronze 46 seconds behind Nelissen.

Longo, 37, won comfortably despite colliding with other cyclists on the second of five laps of a 17.7-kilometre circuit around Duitama, northeast of the capital, Bogota.

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Ticket price: 5 JD (3JD for students) Tickets available at the Goethe Institut, the British Council, the Institut Cervantes and the French Cultural Centre and at the venue. The Orchestra will hold a workshop with students of the National Music Conservatory on Saturday 14 October 1995 at 16:30. Revenue will be given to charity.

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### WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q. 1 - As South, vulnerable, you hold: ♠A Q C 8 5   ♠A Q 10 5 4   ♠J 9 8 7	Q. 4 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠A Q J 7 5   ♠A Q 9 8 2   ♠A 7 4 6
The bidding has proceeded: SOUTH   WEST   NORTH 2♣   Pass   2♦   Pass Pass   Pass   Pass What action do you take?	The bidding has proceeded: SOUTH   WEST   NORTH   EAST 1♠   Pass   1NT   Pass What do you bid now?
Q. 2 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠Q J 9 4   ♠K J 7 5 2   ♠6 4   ♠8 5	Q. 5 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠6   ♠A 8 7   ♠J 7 4 2   ♠K J 7 6 3
The bidding has proceeded: NORTH   EAST   SOUTH   WEST 1♠   Pass   2♦   Pass 2NT   Pass   ? What action do you take?	The bidding has proceeded: NORTH   EAST   SOUTH   WEST 1♠   1♠   ? What do you bid now?
Q. 3 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠A Q 9 8 3   ♠6 5   ♠9 7   ♠A K 4 2	Q. 6 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠J 3   ♠K 9 8   ♠A Q 9 7 6   ♠K 8 2
The bidding has proceeded: SOUTH   WEST   NORTH   EAST 1♠   Pass   1NT   Pass 2♠   Pass   2♦   Pass What action do you take?	The bidding has proceeded: WEST   NORTH   EAST   SOUTH 1♠   1♠   2♠   ? What action do you take?

Look for answers on Monday



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France won her  
gold medal in three  
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valuable race in the  
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In the men's 177.6  
metre Sunday, the  
Netherlands won the  
finishing time of 4:52.39 hours  
Daniel Nisenson of  
came in second, and  
for the silver and the  
Kocher of Sweden  
the bronze medal  
Longo, 34, was  
likely to win the  
other two medals  
and a silver medal  
in the 100 kilometre  
race, but he was  
disqualified for  
leaving the track  
during the race  
BRIDGE  
The 19-year-old player  
then got his hair cut but  
told the media about the  
incident, prompting the  
club to suspend him on  
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# Sports

## Bulgaria thrashes Albania

PARIS (AFP) — Bulgaria notched up a 3-0 victory over Albania Saturday night as the surprise heroes of last year's World Cup almost certainly booked their place in next year's European Championships.

Yordan Letchkov, whose winner at USA '94 sensationally knocked the holders Germany out of the quarter-finals, was back on the scoresheet in Sofia with a quarter of an hour gone.

The midfielder beat two defenders before unleashing a superb left-foot shot into the right-hand corner.

The Bulgarians promptly relaxed their grip on the game, allowing Albania to launch a series of attacks before the break.

With a 35,000 crowd behind them, Bulgaria came out for the second half looking for more goals — only to run into the brick wall of the Albanian defence, and a string magnificent saves by keeper Hristo Stoichkov.

However, the wall finally crumbled in the 80th minute when maverick striker Hristo Stoichkov

fired in a shot from the left which Strakosha failed to hold, and Emil Kostadinov stepped up to score.

Kostadinov, whose last-minute winner in 1993 denied France a place at the World Cup, added his second a minute later from a Letchkov header, following a scramble in the Albanian goal.

Stoichkov, who left Barcelona for Parma this season, said: "It was a difficult match, but now we are 120 per cent sure of going to the finals."

Bulgaria, unbeaten with seven wins from eight matches and a total of 22 points, are the runaway leaders of Group 7. Second placed Germany, who were to play Moldova late Sunday, are six points behind.

After this weekend's matches, both sides will have two more games to play — the second one being against each other November 15. Only the group winners are guaranteed a place at the championships in England.

**Belgium 2, Armenia 0**

Belgium meanwhile kept alive their remote hopes of qualifying, beating Armenia 2-0.

Luc Nilis scored both goals, pouncing on defensive errors. A poor clearance in the 28th minute enabled him to strike a superb far-post drive, and he was left with only the goalkeeper to beat in the 39th.

The Belgians took it easy in the second half, happy enough to sit on their two-goal lead.

"It was a good first half for us," said Belgian coach Paul van Himst. "But I'm not happy how we played in the second half."

Belgium remain third in Group 2 on 14 points, behind defending champions Denmark (17) and Spain (22), who have both played a game less.

Czech Republic beat Belarus 2-0 in their Group 5 qualifier, consolidating their second place with 18 points, two behind Norway.

## Lewis stops Morrison in 6th round

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (AP) — Lennox Lewis, known for his right-hand punching power, scored three of four knockdowns with his left hand and stopped Tommy Morrison in the sixth round of a heavyweight bout Saturday night at Convention Centre.

The 30-year-old Lewis, a former WBC champion, was too strong for Morrison and dominated the bout from the outset, knocking Morrison down in the second, fifth and sixth rounds, cutting him over the right eye and under the left eye, and almost closing the right.

The end came when referee Mills Lane stopped the bout at 1:22 of the sixth round after Morrison got up from the second knockdown of the round.

Lewis showed that he definitely is not just a one-handed fighter as he did tremendous damage with his left. He did score in the fifth round with a right uppercut, but the left was his big weapon on this night before a crowd of 8,369 fans.

Morrison, on the other hand, known for his left hook, threw few of them, landing several rights to the head and working well with both hands to the body.

"He was tough, very tough," said the 26-year-old Morrison, "trying to fight guys like that with that reach is tough, especially with one eye. I'm not used to fighting with one eye."

The right eye was cut in the second round when Lewis landed a left hook to the head that also put Morrison down briefly. Lewis then worked on that eye with stiff left jabs and it was all but closed by the fifth round.

Morrison seemed to have an edge in the first round when he circled and got in a couple of jabs and a right to the head. Then Lewis took charge in the second round and by the fourth it seemed to be just a question of when Lewis would finish it and not whether he would win.

Lewis, 241, hurt Morrison, 227, badly with a left hook and right hand early in the

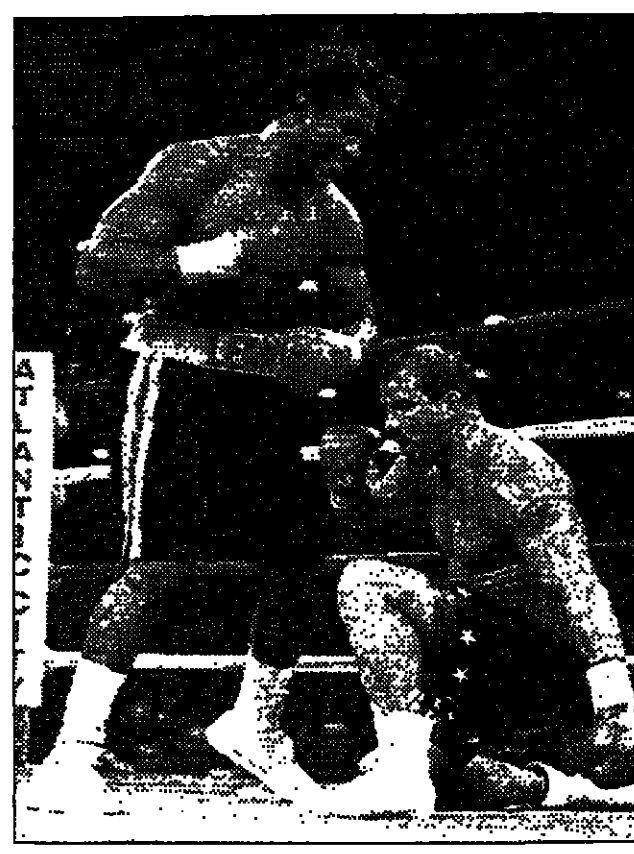
fifth round, and then knocked him down with a right uppercut at about 2:25 in the round. Morrison jumped up quickly from that knockdown, as he did from the two in the sixth.

A Lewis left jab scored the first knockdown early in the sixth and then a left hook produced the final knockdown.

"I was real relaxed out there," Lewis said. "I relied on my patience and a good jab. I was taking my time because I knew Tommy was getting tired."

It was Lewis' third victory since he lost the WBC title when he was stopped in the second round by Oliver McCall Sept. 24, 1994, at Wembley, England. His record is 28-1 with 24 knockouts. Morrison lost for the first time in nine fights, dating back two Oct. 29, 1993, when he was stopped in the first round by Michael Bent.

Lewis earned \$2.4 million, while Morrison made \$2.1 million.



England's Lennox Lewis knocks the USA's Tommy Morrison to the canvas in the sixth round of their 12 round non-title bout Oct. 7 at the Atlantic City Convention Centre (Reuters photo)

## Player suspended over haircut

ROME (R) — Italian Minor League soccer player Domenico Onofrio has been suspended for refusing to get his hair cut as ordered and then talking to the media about it, newspapers reported Sunday.

The Gazzetta dello Sport said southern C2 club Matera had ordered its long-haired players to get a cut.

When Onofrio turned up following the deadline with his hair as long as before, he was barred from training.

The 19-year-old player then got his hair cut but told the media about the incident, prompting the club to suspend him on Saturday and impose a press silence on other players.

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## Justice department regards Steffi as accomplice, report claims

BONN (AFP) — The Mannheim Justice Department regards women's tennis world number one Steffi Graf as an "accomplice" to her father who is facing tax evasion charges, the

German weekly Der Spiegel claims in a report to be published Monday.

The magazine quotes a document from the department investigating Graf's financial affairs

that lists her as an "accomplice".

It adds the German Tennis Federation (DTB) had not declared Graf's prize-money earned in domestic tournaments.

The report follows

Saturday's comments by Opel Chairman David Herrman that there was no question of Opel ending their sponsorship deal with Graf over her tax problems.

He said she was an innocent victim and had always been faithful in her dealings with Opel.

Graf's father Peter has been detained since Aug. 2 while inquiries continue.

Steffi Graf was inter-

viewed for almost eight hours by investigators this week but public prosecutor Peter Wechsung said they had uncovered no new evidence to justify detaining her.

Graf's earnings since

she turned professional in 1982 amount to 180 million marks (\$120 million). She took over the management of her financial affairs after her father was arrested.

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# Legislature will fare far better with sound reforms, experts say

By Sae'da Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Lower House of the Jordanian Parliament might not be performing its role properly when compared with legislatures in developed countries, but it should not be long before it reaches the same level if consistent reforms are made, local and foreign specialists said Sunday.

Parliamentarians and specialists attending discussions on the second day of the seminar on "Parliamentary Work: Prospects and Realities" heavily lashed out at the poor performance of deputies and loopholes in the House's bylaws. However, they pointed to planned measures that ensure a better performance of the House and consolidate its role in the Jordanian political life.

Deputy Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat said the poor performance of the House was basically due to the improper functioning of parliamentary blocs under the dome. One of the major impediments, he said, is the members' non-commitment to the decisions taken by the bloc.

Members of the same bloc deliver speeches reflecting different points of views on the same topic but reiterate, at the end of their speeches, their loyalty and commitment to the speech delivered by the bloc's spokesperson, said Dr. Tubeishat.

Problems and divisions surface especially when government reshuffles occur or if a

new cabinet is formed, he added.

Furthermore, deputies do not get proper attention from the bloc when they raise issues of concern to them or to their constituencies, Dr. Tubeishat said. "Their demands and proposals are met with indifference most of the time," he said.

The 12th Parliament, elected in 1993, saw the birth of six major blocs — "six in theory but four in practice," said Dr. Tubeishat.

The six blocs are the Islamic Action Front (17 members); the National Action Front (NAF — 17 members); the Democratic Alliance (21 members originally but 10 at present); the Jordanian National Front (nine members); and the Brotherly Bloc (five members) and the rest of the 80 members of the House are independents.

According to Dr. Tubeishat, there are only four blocs: the IAF bloc, the NAF, a four-member "leftist" bloc and "moderate centrists" who number 42.

In another vein, Wolfgang Zeh, senior staff member of the German Bundestag administration, criticised the routine forwarding of draft laws to one legislative committee in parliament and said it was a waste of time because the law would be discussed at length many times. He proposed laws be referred to specialised committees that would study the legislation from all aspects with the recommendations of specialists and interested deputies.

"In the German Bundestag, very minor changes are done; there is no discussion of the details in the plenary session," he said.

Deputy Abdul Karim Dughmi on Saturday presented a detailed plan to amend the House's bylaws, especially those related to the functions and duties of the House's committees.

Mr. Dughmi proposed increasing the number of committees to 13 from the present four. Each committee, as it is the case with ministries, will be specialised in a particular field and will discuss related laws in that field and present recommendations to the full House.

But the formation of specialised committees necessitates the establishment of a special department that groups specialists and experts from outside the dome, Mr. Dughmi said. This department should be given the task of studying all draft laws and be able to present recommendations to the respective committees.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Majid Azzam, who is also a deputy, tackled the relationship between the legislative and executive powers concentrating mainly on the double role of deputy/minister. He proposed that the provision that allows parliamentarians to become ministers be cancelled. He also called for taking separate vote of confidence on each

(Continued on page 7)



**EARTHQUAKE:** A local resident describes the damage done to a mosque in Sungai Penh, central Sumatra in Indonesia, by an earthquake that measured 7 on the Richter scale on Sunday (see story inside) (AFP photo)

## Karak, Abul Ragheb urge media to convey right image of Jordan

Ministers meet local press to discuss MENA summit coverage

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Information Khaled Karaki on Sunday called on the Jordanian media to rise to the occasion at their month's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference and to relay to the world the true image about the Kingdom's achievements, stability and democratic process.

Addressing editors of the local press, Dr. Karaki said there was "no need for exaggeration in relaying this image, nor is there a need for linking this major event with unrealistic great prospects

and aspirations, but there is a need for Jordan to prove its stand and its major role in the region."

The minister said he had reservations about certain articles that tend to harm the concepts of freedom and democracy. "Such articles stem from lack of political awareness or lack of experience in understanding or analysing situations," he said.

"It is not in the interest of anyone to see the image of the country distorted with irresponsible and destructive criticism," he said. Biased attitudes and slander even between newspapers them-

selves will mislead observers about the country and result in misunderstanding of its stands and subsequent unjust attitude towards the Kingdom.

He said that the media were still involved in controversy over the role of the official information services and relations between the Ministry of Information and the Jordan Press Association about information policies and the country's national strategy.

The minister said that the media, together with the official information services, should have a "common goal

of enhancing the long democratic march reflecting the bright image about Jordan and its political, social and economic achievements."

Addressing the meeting was also Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb, who discussed preparations for the MENA conference, which, he said, will be a regional as well as international forum where the private sector will play the local role.

Noting that the conference enjoys international backing, the minister said that up to

(Continued on page 7)

### Snorers have fragile heart

TEL AVIV (AFP) — People who snore run a far higher risk of heart attack than quiet sleepers, according to an Israeli medical report published Sunday. Doctors at Assaf Harofeh Hospital near Tel Aviv, in an extract from their report in Maariv newspaper, said 93 per cent of patients with heart problems were found to be snorers. Most fatal attacks occur between 4 and 8 a.m. The amount of sleep was also an important factor. The death rate is 70 per cent higher among people who sleep less than six hours a night.

### Chinese lured by cable TV

BEIJING (AFP) — Between 25 and 30 per cent of Chinese families will have cable television in their homes by 2005, the official China Daily said Sunday, quoting Electronics Ministry official Hua Deqing. The number of Chinese homes that subscribe to cable TV will at least triple within 10 years, the newspaper said. According to government projections, the number of subscribers will rise from the 30 million at the end of 1994 to 60 million in 2000 and 100 million in 2005, the report said. Cable television, which appeared here at the beginning of the 1990s, currently offers music, sports, and films. Cable television hook ups are available in most new buildings in Beijing for about 10 yuan (\$1.20) a month.

### Ill-fated Russian circus finally going home

DAVAO, Philippines (R) — A Russian circus stranded without money for seven months in the southern Philippines and forced to survive on charity is finally going home. Barring further strokes of bad luck, a Russian cargo plane arrives early this week to fly all that is left of the circus — 13 performers and nine animals — back to Moscow Thursday. Members of the group said Sunday. "When I come here first time...I don't have friend. Now I have plenty friends," troupe leader Boris Fedotov said in an interview Sunday. He was referring to Filipino officials and citizens who gave the Russians food, money and shelter to enable them to get through the bad times. The troupe originally numbered 37 performers and more than 20 animals when it arrived in the Philippines in July last year for a series of shows. After several performances, the group and its Filipino promoter broke up in a row over money and the Russians have been stranded since March in Davao, 980 kilometres south of Manila. Penniless, they had to depend on Davao residents to survive. Market vendors gave them leftover vegetables as feed for the starving animals, taxi drivers sometimes gave them free rides, and a businessman allowed them use of a vacant lot which enabled them to put up a mini-zoo that brought in some money. The local government exempted them from paying taxes, and a businessman treated them to occasional free plane tickets that enabled a majority of the troupe members to return separately to Russia earlier, with some of the animals. Misfortune first hit the troupe earlier this year when two circus donkeys and three ponies were electrocuted after a live wire fell on their cage after a show in another city. A llama died of massive diarrhoea in July.

## Several European giants expected at MENA summit

By Francesca Ciriaci  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Reflecting a rising European interest in business opportunities into the region, businessmen from nearly 100 economic giants of the European private sector are expected to attend this month's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit in Amman.

At a first glance, it could seem a small number, but quality definitely makes up for quantity, according to a provisional list released by the Jordanian committee preparing for the summit. Participation of the European private sector is going to be marked by the presence of big companies, covering all sectors and represented by their high-

est cadres.

From Marks & Spencer to Volkswagen, Club Med, and Henkel, most of the names that accompany the average European every day life are going to be at the MENA summit.

The president of Olivetti, Carlo de Benedetti, is registered as one of the conference's speakers, while Sir Brian Hill will represent Higgs and Hill. Also present will be directors and board members from Credit Lyonnais, British Aerospace, Siemens, Alcatel, Baring Securities, Barclays, and Stirling are going to attend the summit.

"Particularly remarkable is the presence of oil companies, (Total and Elf), and major banks," said Christian Ponsot, commercial

secretary of the French embassy.

According to Maria Pia Bianconi, commercial attaché of the Italian embassy, ENI, the Italian colossus for hydrocarbons and one of the sponsors and speakers of the Amman economic summit, has already invested \$3 million in a feasibility study for the Red Sea-Dead Sea Canal Project. Mrs. Bianconi said the project aims at bringing the Red Sea water to the Dead Sea, restoring the natural level of the Dead Sea, generating energy and serving desalination purposes.

"European companies have a solid tradition in this area and their participation will be very consistent and effective," said Umayya Toukan, rapporteur of the

Jordanian preparatory committee.

According to a bulletin published by the Central Bank of Jordan, in the first four months of this year, 34.6 per cent of Jordan's imports and nine per cent of the Kingdom exports were from and to European Union countries.

Dr. Toukan, director-general of the Amman Financial Market (AFM), said that the three-day Amman conference starting on Oct. 29 is meant to focus especially on business and its purpose is to give potential investors a chance to sound out the economic potential of this region.

"To achieve concrete results, the conference has to be 'manageable' to a certain extent, we also tried to contain the number of par-

ticipants," Dr. Toukan added. Over 400 government delegates and over 600 executives from leading international companies are expected to take part in the summit.

"From the companies' side we can see a serious interest, though at the actual stage we still don't know much about their concrete projects," said Samar Ashqar, commercial officer at the British embassy.

"Board members and even presidents are coming here to make contacts and to have an idea of the situation in this area: 'If they'll be satisfied, they'll send their senior managers' here again to conclude business."

The British government delegation will be headed

by Anthony Nelson, minister of trade.

"Some of the companies taking part in the conference are new to this area, others are familiar with it, others are already working here, like Rolls Royce, which is now building a power plant in Agaba worth \$41 million, said Ms. Ashqar. "But, most importantly, they are all coming to Amman knowing what to expect and prepared, because over past months they've been briefed and updated with all the useful information."

During the conference, the Jordanian private sector, represented by the Jordanian Businessmen Association (JBA), will present its foreign counterparts proposals of over 100 projects. The list of the

projects is expected to be ready by Oct. 15, according to Ms. Ashqar.

According to Dr. Toukan, besides the official plenary sessions, there will be over 50 sessions, each one with five speakers and one moderator, chosen to meet as much as possible the requirements of balance among different sectors and geographic areas. Plenary sessions will be about: finance and investment, infrastructure, economic climate, trade and industry. The main categories to be discussed in the workshops are: financial services, food and agro-industry, textiles and apparels, transportation, energy, engineering and constructions. Information

(Continued on page 7)

## Turkish troops enter Iraq to hit PKK

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (Agencies) — Turkish troops have crossed into northern Iraq to strike at separatist Kurdish guerrillas fighting the Ankara government, a Turkish official has said.

"We went in and hit them," Unal Erkan, governor for Turkey's 10 southern provinces under emergency rule, told Reuters on Saturday.

Mr. Erkan said Turkish soldiers crossed into northern Iraq Friday and advanced three to four kilometres. It was unclear how many were sent in. "When the work is finished they will return," he said.

Iraq Sunday protested to

Turkey over the incursion into its territory by Turkish forces, the official Iraqi News Agency said.

The agency quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying Turkey's charge d'affaires in Baghdad was summoned to the ministry to be informed of the government's "strong protest."

It said Turkish forces crossed into Iraqi territory Friday in pursuit of Turkish Kurdish rebels, causing many casualties. It did not elaborate.

"The Iraqi government categorically rejects the pretexts repeated by the Turkish government to justify its military operations inside Iraq and considers these op-

erations a blatant violation of its sovereignty," the spokesman said.

Turkey often sends troops into northern Iraq in pursuit of guerrillas of the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), who have been fighting for a Kurdish homeland in south-east Turkey for more than a decade.

A de facto, autonomous state for Iraqi Kurds was set up in the Kurdish north of Iraq under U.S. protection after the end of the 1991 Gulf war. PKK guerrillas use bases in northern Iraq to launch attacks against Turkish forces across the border.

"The Iraqi government de-

mands that the Turkish government fully and immediately withdraws its forces and stop repeating these violations," the Iraqi spokesman said Sunday.

Turkey twice this year poured troops into northern Iraq to pound PKK rebels. A major cross-border operation in March was criticised by some of Turkey's Western allies, but small groups of soldiers are reported at times to engage in forays across the border.

The regional governor's office in Diyarbakir Sunday issued a statement saying that 32 PKK guerrillas were killed in the past 24 hours.

## Hunt on in Morocco for policeman who killed 2 tourists, injured others

TANGIER, Morocco (R) — Police combed forests and manned roadblocks in the northern Moroccan city of Tangier on Sunday in the hunt for an off-duty policeman who gunned down two British tourists in a shooting spree at a seaside hotel.

Three other tourists, including 12-year-old British schoolgirl Charlean Barker Hall, were wounded in the attack on Friday night at the Tarik hotel.

Police said Martin Gower, an electrician from Ruislip near London, and his wife Margaret, both in their 60s, were killed instantly when Mustapha Hamouche went on the rampage in the hotel's bar just after killing his wife in a fit of passion. He escaped by running into a forest near the hotel.

"He was shouting Allahu Akbar all the time. He was hysterical," said Barbara Kiham, of Liverpool, England.

Ms. Kiham was in the bar when the man, an off-duty police inspector described as wearing a long white robe, walked in and started to shoot randomly. Frenchman Hervé Mangin was also wounded in the bar.

Witnesses said Patricia Cherratt, a British woman in her 50s, was shot when the gunman chased her up the stairs.

Doctor Wafa Benhalima, who treated Ms. Cherratt, said her condition was stable after two bullets were removed from her back. She said a hospital plane was due to arrive in Tangier later on Sunday to fly Ms. Cherratt home.

"There were fragments in her back and she has difficulty breathing but she is stable. She is conscious and speaking," Dr. Benhalima told Reuters.

Steven Stewart, a spokesman for tour operator First Choice, said the holidaymakers were given a choice of curtailing their two-week holiday or flying home as scheduled on Wednesday.

He would not say when the bodies of the two victims would be flown home, saying the family had requested privacy.

The guests have been moved from the Tarik to other hotels in Tangier and a few, including the Hall family, have said they would stay until Wednesday. Reporters said there were no signs of extra security at the hotels although the attacker was still on the run.

"I said to the man: 'excuse me, can you help me?' He looked carefully at me and he shot. He wore a white robe. He had no beard and no glasses," the blonde schoolgirl said.

Ms. Hall, whose hand was in bandages, said she put her hands over her head as the gunman aimed his pistol at her.

"I think he was crazy. I think he had too much hashish," Charlean's mother, Janet, said. "My daughter is alive. That's the most important thing."

A German tourist, who was in the bar at the time of the shooting, described the scene at the hotel, where 150 British and German guests were staying at the time.

"There were about 50 people in the bar when a man wearing a long white robe walked in and started shooting with a small pistol," the German, who did not wish to be named, said.

The British embassy in Rabat said on Saturday it had no reason to believe the attack was politically motivated and they accepted that it was an isolated incident.

"It seems an off-duty policeman in a fit of rage killed his wife and injured his brother-in-law before opening fire on residents in the hotel," it said.

## Rafsanjani to help Ramos fight extremists

MANILA (AFP) — Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has assured his Philippine counterpart Fidel Ramos that Iran will help Manila in the field of counter-terrorism, a presidential palace statement said Sunday.

Mr. Ramos said he expected Tehran to continue supporting peace talks between the Philippine government and the country's main Muslim insurgent group, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

Mr. Rafsanjani met with Mr. Ramos for talks soon after arriving here on Sunday.

He assured Mr. Ramos "the and the Iranian government would assist the Philippines and the international community in the area of counter-terrorism," the palace said

without elaborating.

The palace also said Mr. Ramos briefed Mr. Rafsanjani on the status of talks with the MNLF, which waged a bloody separatist war in the southern Philippines in the 1970s, but which has since agreed to negotiate for autonomy for Muslim-populated regions.

The palace made no mention on whether the talks included recent reports that Ramzi Ahmad Yousef, the alleged mastermind of the World Trade Centre bombing, had threatened to attack Mr. Ramos and other targets here.

Yousef, who was detained in Pakistan in February, had earlier been here and allegedly planned attacks against visiting Pope John Paul II as well as foreign embassies and airlines.

He also allegedly carried out the mid-air bombing of a Philippine Airlines flight last year that claimed one life.

Palace aides said Sunday that security for Mr. Ramos should be boosted in the light of the threats by Yousef. Iran has not been directly implicated in the attacks in the Philippines although security officials have said that other foreign Muslim fundamentalists are involved and are supporting MNLF breakaway groups which are not part of the peace talks.

Mr. Ramos said before the meeting Mr. Rafsanjani that their talks would focus on the need to "improve our trade and economic relations at all possible levels."

The two leaders witnessed the signing of various memoranda of understanding including one on the reciprocal

